

THE TIMES

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10P

Cambridge boost for state pupils

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

CAMBRIDGE University is to increase by a third the number of students it recruits from state schools in an attempt to ward off a government threat to college fees, which does see as vital to its position as a world leader.

Plans to take two out of three undergraduates from the state system were endorsed by admissions tutors on Friday. At present, half come from state schools.

The target reflects the proportion of state-educated pupils achieving three A grades at A level, but it will

alarm independent schools, some of which already claim that the system is weighted against their candidates.

Ministers have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England to review the justification for Oxford and Cambridge receiving an extra £35 million a year to maintain individual tuition and separate college facilities. Although the review is concentrating on value for money, the universities believe that the price for retaining the system may be greater access for state pupils. Gordon Brown was applauded at the Labour Party conference when he said: "When at

Oxford and Cambridge half the places still go to private schools, it is time to extend opportunity by redistributing resources."

There are wide variations among the colleges at both of the ancient universities. In Cambridge, Churchill and King's colleges take at least three-quarters of their students from the state sector, while in some others the proportion is little more than a third.

The two universities have launched a series of initiatives to attract more applications from the state system. But the proportion of offers to state applicants dropped below 44 per cent last year at

Oxford, and Cambridge struggled to raise it above 50 per cent.

Dr Susan Stobbs, the Pembroke College scientist who chairs the Cambridge Admissions Forum, said: "We think that a split of 65 per cent state pupils and 35 per cent from independent schools would be a fair proportion of the brightest and the best. Although we have no intention of introducing quotas, we will have in our thoughts what would be sensible. We will not be discriminating against anybody."

Almost all of those offered places at Cambridge are predicted to achieve three A grades at A level. Of 25,700 students achieving that

feat last year, 17,400 were from state schools or colleges and 8,300 from the independent sector.

Dr Stobbs said the imbalance was compounded by sixth-form scholarships, which attract many of the most talented comprehensive school pupils into the independent sector. "Some of those who remain in state schools are not encouraged to apply, even though they could do very well."

An official analysis of Cambridge degree results, carried out for the first time this year, has shown little difference between the performances of state and independent school pupils. Dr Stobbs said:

"This suggests that our selection procedures are fair."

Oxford will address the issue when the North Commission, which is reviewing all aspects of university life, reports next month. A spokesman said yesterday: "We are doing our best to see that as many people as possible apply from state schools. We do not go in for positive discrimination, but we do look for potential in applicants from all types of school."

John Moore, Headmaster of the King's School, Worcester, and academic secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said that independent schools

would be concerned if quotas were set, but would not object to Cambridge's move. "If they want to set a target, that is perfectly proper, as long as all applications are treated on merit."

College fees, which provide Oxford and Cambridge with £2,000 a year more per student than other universities receive, have been the subject of fierce discussion since Sir Ron Dearing raised the issue in his report on higher education. Education ministers are said to have argued for abolition, but to have met resistance in Downing Street.

Friendly quads, page 7

Brown tries to calm market EMU fears

By NICHOLAS WATT AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

GORDON BROWN was forced last night to try to calm stock markets braced for a dramatic fall today after his indication that Britain would not join a European single currency for at least five years.

The Chancellor gave a series of interviews promising a "full and substantial" statement to Parliament soon after it returns on Monday. And today he will tell the Stock Exchange: "We are determined to avoid continuing and debilitating speculation."

Mr Brown spoke after Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, led criticism of the way he had outlined his thinking on the single currency in an interview with *The Times* rather than to Parliament. Mr Lilley accused the Government of "whispered words and bungled briefings" and said that Parliament should be recalled within 48 hours.

City prepare for economic and monetary union — whether or not Britain was a part of it.

Government sources last night stood by the Chancellor's interview with *The Times* in which he gave his strongest indication to date that Britain would not sign up to the currency this side of a general election.

And today he will use his speech at the opening of the stock market's new electronic trading system: "I have already said that entry in 1999 is highly unlikely. Our economic cycle has been out of line with our European partners. There has not been sufficient flexibility to cope with economic shocks. Business has not had time to prepare. If we do not join in 1999, Britain will need a period of stability without continuing speculation."

That was rejected by the Government, but Mr Brown said that he would set out his position in detail soon after the Commons resumes.

Government sources said that his statement would include his formal announcement of whether Britain would join a single currency in 1999; report on the result of a Treasury review into five economic tests for Britain's future entry; set out the Government's position on the future of economic co-ordination in Europe; say what the Government intended to do to avoid risks of shock should it join the single currency; and explain how a government task force would help business and the

Mr Lilley, however, called for an official enquiry into a series of recent briefings about the Government's view on the euro. He told BBC's *On the Record*: "If any private individual had misled markets in the way that this Government has done, that would be a very serious offence. We should have an inquiry into who has said what that caused this from within government."

"The correct thing to do is for Gordon Brown to come before the House of Commons and spell out his policies and make it absolutely clear and subject himself to parliamentary scrutiny. He should do so sooner rather than later. Ideally he should recall Parliament early so that next week he can do it and clear up confusion."

"This is a Government which does not have policies, it has media manipulation at its heart and its core. And those who live by the leak are going to die by the leak. All this is caused by their obsession with media manipulation and their contempt for parliamentary democracy."

Paddy Ashdown said that the Government had confused the situation over EMU. He continued on page 2, col 5

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Asylum-seeking gypsies from Eastern Europe at Dover yesterday. Over the weekend 180 people seeking political refuge arrived forcing the council to implement emergency plans

Chinese swim into trouble

A series of record-breaking performances by swimmers from the National Games of China in Shanghai has again pointed the finger of suspicion at sport in China.

Susan O'Neill, Australia's Olympic champion over 200 metres butterfly, said: "They are obviously cheating — they are machines". Don Talbot, head coach to the Australian team, said: "You have to be naive to think they're clean. This is a planned policy." — Page 26

Tax on savings to be reformed

Gordon Brown is planning to sweep away differing tax rates and exemptions and equalise taxes on savings.

A team of Treasury officials is working on proposals, possibly for the Chancellor's next Budget in the spring, to entice everyone to a fixed amount of tax-free income from all forms of savings, possibly as much as £2,000 a year. Alternatively, the tax-free limit could be fixed in terms of the capital sum invested. — Page 2

Dover overwhelmed by gypsy asylum seekers

By LIN JENKINS

URGENT talks are to be held today with Slovakian Embassy officials in an attempt to stem the flow of Eastern European gypsies arriving at Dover seeking political asylum.

The arrival of more than 180 men, women and children over the weekend — few of whom are likely to be granted asylum — forced Kent County Council to implement an emergency plan as every available bed and breakfast place was taken. The weekend influx added to the 600 who have arrived since August.

A day centre has been used to accommodate some, while an empty old people's home in Thanet is on standby to take more if two coachloads, reported by the immigration Service to be at Calais, arrive. Up to 3,000 people are said to be making their way across Europe.

Kent County Council has said it is unable to cope with the numbers and demanded an immediate meeting with ministers. It was already fac-

ing a £1 million bill before the weekend arrivals.

Mike O'Brien, the Home Office Minister in charge of immigration, rejected criticism. "I am satisfied we are approaching it in the proper way. We are getting some irresponsible and inflammatory comment," he said.

At least 36 of those who arrived over the weekend have returned to France. About 30 of the men, all classified as principal asylum seekers, are in detention centres. Their wives and families have been found accommodation after some spent a night on the floor of a social services day centre.

The influx has been attributed to a documentary made by a Prague-based television company which interviewed asylum seekers in Dover a few weeks ago. It is believed to have suggested that Britain was an attractive prospect for refugees. None of the 140 Slovak and Czech Republic gypsies whose applications have been processed has been granted asylum. There is

widespread belief that they are deliberately abusing the system.

Some of the group are telling us that Eastern European TV was saying that the asylum and benefits system in Britain can be abused," said Mr O'Brien.

Since August 116 men have sought political asylum for themselves and their families. Last year there were 10 applications in the same period.

Keith Ferrin, Deputy Leader of Kent County Council, said local services were at crisis point. "The bill for this year before the new arrivals at the weekend was estimated at £1 million. We are on a knife-edge and we cannot allow services to local people to deteriorate."

Primary schools in the town are full. "We face the prospect of telling somebody who moves to the town that their children will have to be bussed elsewhere because schools are full."

Romany influx, page 5

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Diana's dresses wanted for Millennium Dome

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

A DAZZLING collection of evening dresses worn by Diana, Princess of Wales, is being considered by ministers for display at the Millennium Dome.

The display would raise money for charities and causes associated with the Princess. It is expected that visitors to the dome would be asked to make a charity donation on top of the admission cost.

The idea has interested Peter

Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who is in charge of the project and Jenny Page, the Millennium Commission chief executive, is to inspect an exhibition of the Princess's dresses in America. They wish to ensure, however, that any exhibition would meet the approval of the Princess's family.

Ministers hope that by the time exhibition opens, the Princess's ex-tutors might allow more of her clothes to be included.

The idea was prompted by an exhibition opening next month at the

Museum of Art in Tampa, Florida, of some of the Princess's dresses bought at the Christie's auction in New York. Maureen Rorech, a 37-year-old businesswoman, bought 13 of the dresses and had decided to exhibit them to raise money for charities connected with children, AIDS, cancer and hospices even before the Princess's death.

Interest in the exhibition has surged since then, and many other people who bought some of the 79 dresses at auction wish to present their items. Cynthia Duval, curator and consultant for the exhibition, has been inundated

with offers of dresses and requests from museums in the US, Japan, Hong Kong, Brazil and Europe to stage the exhibition in support of the Princess's charities. Her aim is that the collection, or at least part of it, should ultimately return to England.

Mrs Rorech said last night that she intended to present the dresses she owns to Prince William and Prince Harry after the world tour. "They can then decide what is most appropriate for them but I hope they would never be sold," she said. "The dresses

Continued on page 2, col 4

Chancellor plans 'savings ration' in tax shake-up

A REVOLUTION in the taxation of savings is being planned by Gordon Brown. Treasury officials are working on radical proposals to cut through the jungle of differing tax rates and exemptions and create a level playing field for taxes on savings.

Under the plan, everyone would be entitled to a fixed tax-free income from all savings — possibly as much as £2,000 a year. Alternatively, the tax-free limit could be fixed in terms of the capital sum invested. Under this formula no tax would be payable on the return from annual savings of, say, £10,000. Above these limits, tax would become payable at the basic or top rate.

It is understood that Mr Brown has pencilled in the shake-up for his next Budget in March. He regards the "ration of savings" plan as a potential big idea for his Chancellorship — on a par with the far-reaching tax reforms introduced by Nigel Lawson in the 1980s.

The proposal goes far beyond Mr Brown's announcement in his July Budget of plans for a new individual

Nicholas Wood
on Gordon Brown's latest attempt at cutting the welfare bill

savings account (ISA) to replace tax-free Peps and Tassas. An attack on savings and pensions tax incentives would be seen as a direct blow at the middle classes, who have already seen their pension returns sliced by Budget reforms depriving pension funds of the right to claim back the tax paid on dividends.

Treasury officials had been given until the end of the year to present detailed proposals to the Chancellor. However, the "ration of savings" plan is encountering stiff resistance from senior officials, who fear that it will prove administratively unworkable.

At present, some forms of

income from savings — such as Peps and Tassas — are tax free. Others, such as interest on bank- and building society deposits, are taxable. Under the proposed new regime, all forms of saving would be treated alike for tax purposes. The future of tax relief on pension contributions — which could lead to abolition of 40 per cent relief for high earners — could be included in the savings rethink.

Mr Brown believes that such a radical upheaval — if properly presented to the public — would encourage far more people to save. At present, the average level of savings is less than £500 per household and most people have little put aside.

Boosting the nation's modest savings ratio is seen by the Chancellor as important to strengthening the economy in the long term and easing the path towards reform of the £100 billion-a-year welfare state. If more people, particularly the low paid, could be encouraged to save through their working lives, they would be less reliant on welfare if they hit hard times.

It is understood that similar proposals were secretly considered by John Major and Kenneth Clarke in 1995 in the early stages of preparation for the 1997 Conservative manifesto. They were dropped after the Inland Revenue warned that implementation would require thousands of new tax inspectors. They would be needed to check more complicated self-assessment tax returns and to replace the banks, building societies and other financial institutions, who police the current system, deducting tax at source on savings.

Edward Troup, a tax adviser to Mr Clarke during his Chancellorship, and now head of tax strategy at law firm Simmons and Simmons, said: "A ration of savings could mean that up to 22 million more people would have to fill in tax returns, either to reclaim tax or to pay additional tax. It is an attractive idea but not one whose time has yet come."



Maureen Rorech, who is behind an exhibition in the US of dresses which belonged to Diana, Princess of Wales

Continued from page 1
represent something so historic." Last month Mrs Rorech bought a fourteenth dress for her collection. She paid more than £200,000 (£125,000) for the black velvet dress designed by Bruce Oldfield which the Princess wore in 1985 to a first-night performance of *Les Misérables*. Its original price at auction was \$36,800.

The exhibition collection is insured for nearly \$15 million.

Diana's dresses to raise charity funds

By next spring at least 30 dresses are expected to be included and by the millennium it is hoped that most of the 79 dresses can be assembled.

Mrs Duval said last night: "I would love to have all the dresses. They represent a remarkable piece of history.

of museum standards. Mrs Rorech, who runs a number of style and fashion companies and campaigns for charity, said: "My interest in this collection is as a memorial to the Princess. I believe it will represent something very important over the next few years and that it will powerfully rally millions of people around the world and they will support the Princess's charities and the causes she believed in."

McAleese in new Sinn Fein row

MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE frontrunner for Ireland's presidency, a Belfast law professor who lunched privately with the Queen at Buckingham Palace last year, yesterday faced a fresh claim of being a Sinn Fein sympathiser.

The allegation against Mary McAleese, based on leaked documents from the Irish Foreign Ministry, have introduced uncertainty into the previously sedate race just 12 days before the election.

Democratic and Labour Party, a month before Britain's general election.

It quotes Mr Rodgers complaining that the SDLP was receiving poor coverage in Belfast's Irish News because of an unofficial alliance between Dr McAleese, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, and Alex Reid, a priest instrumental in bringing Sinn Fein to the negotiating table. In her view the trio was "promoting a new nationalist consensus which owes more to Sinn Fein than the SDLP. All three are in regular touch with the Sinn Fein leadership and are in reality pushing the Sinn Fein agenda".

Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, compounded Dr McAleese's problems last Thursday by saying she was



McAleese spoke of ceasefire initiative

his preferred candidate. Dr McAleese, whose childhood home is in a predominantly Catholic area of north Belfast, was once sprayed with bullets by loyalists, has made no secret of her nationalist views, but insists her only link with

Sinn Fein was through a private initiative with Father Reid to secure an IRA ceasefire. There is no evidence she has ever supported violence.

Dr McAleese is Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University in Belfast and a director of Channel 4 television. She told *The Times* last week that the Queen invited her to a private lunch in May 1996. "To get an insight into nationalist thinking in Northern Ireland. We passed a very nice afternoon".

If elected, she said that she would love to invite the Queen to make her first visit to the Republic.

An *Irish Times* poll last week gave Dr McAleese 32 per cent support, eight points more than Mary Bannotti, the opposition Fine Gael candidate, with the other three candidates trailing far behind.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Legal aid axe to fall without legislation

The Government will move swiftly to scrap civil legal aid for all claims involving money and damages from as early as next April without primary legislation.

But such a move, in the wake of the Lord Chancellor's publication of a far-reaching shake-up of legal services on Saturday, could be challenged by the legal profession in the courts. Both the Law Society and the Bar believe legislation is needed.

Government officials however are believed to take the view that removing civil legal aid from work such as personal injuries, debt and consumer claims could be done through an order in Parliament. The idea is that legal aid would be scrapped at the same time as the Government acts next April to open up "no win, no fee" work for most civil claims. Officials accept that other aspects of the reforms — introducing fixed-price contracts for remaining legal aid work — will need legislation. No Bill on those measures is likely before November 1998.

Hague calls Bell back into fold

Sir Tim Bell, former special adviser to Margaret Thatcher and head of a public relations company, will be a main speaker at the two-day "bonding session" for Tory MPs, starting in Eastbourne on Tuesday. He will describe how parties in other countries use political advertising. Senior MPs who have declined William Hague's invitation to attend include John Major and Michael Heseltine.

Toll on drivers in cities urged

One of John Prescott's transport advisers will today demand that the Government introduces urgent legislation to charge motorists so as to ease city congestion. Ministers must let local authorities use the money to improve public transport, says a report by David Begg. He will tell the Government that plans to reduce pollution and congestion will fail unless it takes swift action on charges.

New powers for food watchdog

The new Food Standards Agency will be given sweeping powers over the monitoring and labelling of foods, ministers have decided. The agency will also be responsible for legislation covering the nutritional qualities of food, including claims made by manufacturers. The decision is a success for critics of the food industry, which says it fears a return to the "manny state".

Unheard-of quiet on Armistice Day

An unprecedented number of businesses and councils will pay tribute to the war dead with an Armistice Day silence at 11am on November 11. For the first time all the leading stores, and Radio 4, will mark the two-minute silence, and McDonald's has agreed to encourage all 800 of its restaurants to support the tribute. More than 120 companies and organisations will observe the silence.

South basks in flaming October

Temperatures reached 23C (73F) in southern England yesterday in one of the hottest late October spells since records began. West London saw the highest temperatures, with West Wales and western Ireland a few degrees lower. Scotland was much colder. The London Weather Centre said it was unlikely to last and frost could be expected in some areas this week.

Schemes boosted the thrifty ethic

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

A NUMBER of tax-free schemes currently exist to promote the saving ethic. But they have been introduced at different times and grown up without overall planning.

Each year you can put a total of £9,000 into personal equity plans (PEPs) and get tax-free income and gains. Another £9,000 can be invested over five years in tax exempt special savings accounts (Tassas). Provided the capital remains untouched for that period, all the interest is tax free.

Pension savings is promoted through tax relief on contributions, given both at the basic (23 per cent) rate of tax

and of the higher rate (40 per cent). Employees contributing to company schemes are entitled to pay in 15 per cent of their salaries tax free. Those without company schemes or the self-employed can contribute from 17.5 per cent of earnings to personal plans depending on age.

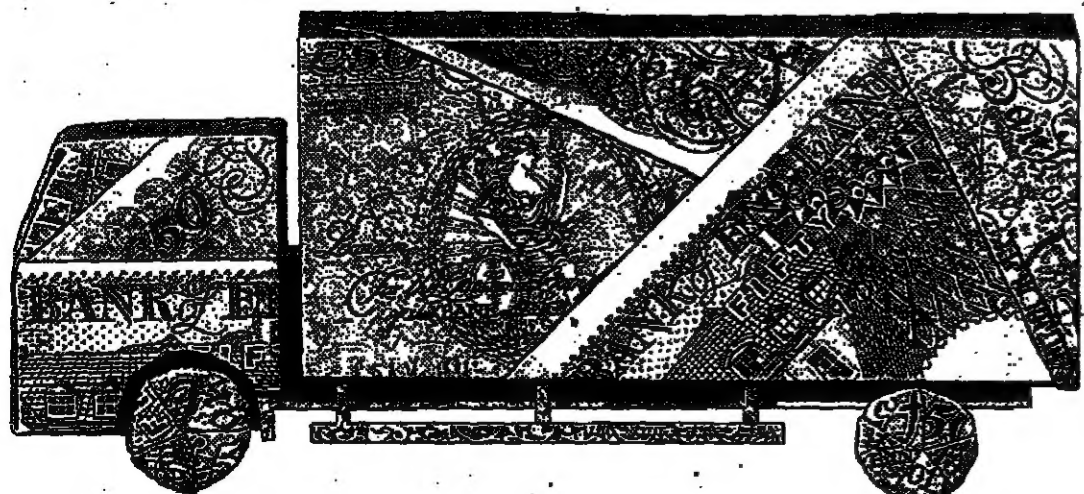
Tax-free savings can also be made in National Savings plans, including Premium Bonds, friendly societies, venture capital and enterprise investment schemes.

In 1999 Peps and Tassas are to be phased out to be replaced by Individual Savings Accounts (Isas), to encourage the low-paid to save.

A common view of business finance.



Our view.



Some people see your new truck or IT system as just money. As if business finance was just about finance. It's not. It's about having real experience in the assets you rely on in your business — helping you get best value from them. It's about understanding the decisions you have to make now and how they can influence the way you invest in future. It's about making it easier for you to look forward and think ahead. It's the extra service we bring to the table when we bring the finance. An extra service that's part of the service. Money isn't everything, you see.

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Chancellor

Continued from page 1
told the BBC's *The World This Weekend*: "We are certainly seeing the price of Government by spin and leak and that's very unhelpful. What we are seeing is rather uncertain government, pretty questionable politics and extremely doubtful economics."

The political row came as economists predicted that leading shares could fall by as much as 100 points today, but they stopped short of forecasting meltdown. There is also growing anger among businesses and investors that the series of leaks and counter-leaks on single currency policy are wreaking havoc in the financial markets.

The stock market soared a near-record 161 points three weeks ago, after a report suggesting that the Government was preparing for an early entry into EMU. But the latest contrary reports are expected to wipe out most of these gains. Gilt prices will also be vulnerable.

Speculation of an early entry into EMU boost the stock market because it implies relatively high UK interest rates converging with lower European interest rates. Today, only the pound looks set to climb higher as a delayed entry into EMU would leave the Bank of England free to raise interest rates to curb the booming domestic economy.

Peter Warburton, UK economist at Robert Fleming, said: "The markets will be pretty confused today. Gordon Brown has flagged up that he will soon make a formal statement on EMU. He should get on and make it."

TV pullout fuels Clark reshuffle speculation

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

DAVID CLARK, the embattled Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, pulled out of a television interview yesterday, increasing speculation that his Cabinet career may be nearing its end.

The BBC had been expecting Dr Clark to make a strong defence of his accusation that a Government official is running a "smear campaign" against him. But the current affairs programme *On the Record* was told abruptly on Saturday night that the minister could not attend because he had a perforated eardrum.

Peter Kilfoyle, a junior Cabinet Office Minister took his place. In an uncertain performance Mr Kilfoyle denied that Dr Clark had been "got at" after implying that a Government minister was behind press leaks about him.

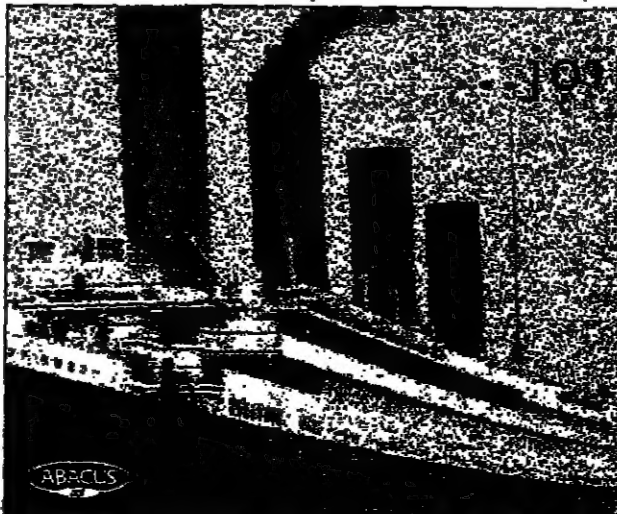
However, Dr Clark's non-appearance added to speculation that the minister is likely to be a victim in Tony Blair's first Cabinet reshuffle. A senior Government source underlined the Prime Minister's irritation with the minister when he told one newspaper that he had "totally lost it". Senior members of the Government were exasperated when Dr Clark, the MP for South Shields, told his local newspaper that he was the

victim of a smear campaign by an unnamed Government colleague. He then told a local BBC radio station: "I don't think there's any doubt that there is somebody running a smear campaign against me. The media has considerable detail, basically much of it true."

Dr Clark's outburst was prompted by a series of stories in the press claiming that he spent about £50,000 on three factfinding visits to the United States, Canada and Australia to compare international freedom of information laws.

His astonishing remarks also highlighted Dr Clark's anger that he is being blamed for failing to produce the much-awaited Government White Paper for a Freedom of Information Bill. Dr Clark, who had promised to produce a White Paper by the end of August, was given a dressing down by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, in a Cabinet committee on future legislation.

He was told to go back to the drawing board. Dr Clark's allegations are being viewed "extremely seriously", Robin Manfield, the Permanent Secretary at the Office of Public Service, is to look at the claims this week.



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Malvern car as he

Rape victim was for hours in house

Malvern boy dies in car as he flees police

Pupil crashed into his school gatepost, reports Simon de Bruxelles

A PROMISING sixth-form pupil at Malvern College was killed at the wheel of his car when he crashed into the school gates during a high-speed police chase.

Julian Elwell, 17, died after hitting a stone pillar at the entrance to the public school on Saturday night as he tried to evade a patrol car. His Fiat Tipo burst into flames, and repeated attempts to rescue him from the burning vehicle failed. West Mercia police said last night that the Police Complaints Authority would oversee the investigation into Mr Elwell's death.

The chase began shortly after 9pm on Saturday, when PC Paul Lambourne stopped his patrol car to speak to the driver of a red Fiat parked on double yellow lines outside the Unicorn pub in the centre of Malvern. Hereford and Worcester. Instead, Mr Elwell made off at high speed and PC Lambourne followed as he went through a red traffic light, narrowly missed another car and then lost control and crashed into the entrance of No 8 House in College Road. Police said the pursuing patrol car was 200 yards from the Fiat when it crashed.

Inspector David Pellet of Worcester police said: "The vehicle burst into flames and officers made repeated attempts to extinguish the fire and rescue the occupant. A local doctor who was one of the first on the scene pronounced Mr Elwell dead at 9.40pm."

"At this stage of the inquiry we have absolutely no idea why the car drove off at high speed. The whole incident was over in a matter of two or three minutes."

The schoolboy's father, Jon, an advertising executive and former RAF helicopter pilot, received news of his son's death on Saturday — his 42nd birthday. "It is a loss to the world, not just to us. He was going to be a doctor," he said.

His mother, Clare, 43, a teacher of dyslexic children, added: "The best are always taken away soonest and now I know that is true."

Mrs Elwell, who also has a



The burnt-out wreckage of the car which crashed into the gate pillars, below, after a high-speed police chase



15-year-old daughter and another son, aged 13, said her son was trustworthy behind the wheel of a car despite his inexperience. "I find it so out of character that he ended up that way. I entrusted my other children to his care. I entrusted myself to his care. I had no concerns about his driving."

News of the tragedy was broken to the college's 570 pupils at chapel on Sunday morning. Headmaster Hugh Carson said: "We are gravely concerned at this terrible event. Julian Elwell was a bright and popular boy and an Oxbridge candidate. We are investigating the accident and its causes and will make a further statement on completion of this investigation. Our priority now rests with consol-

ing the family and also the rest of the college community."

A post mortem examination due to be carried out this morning will establish whether Mr Elwell had been drinking before the accident. A scholar as well as a recipient of a government assisted place, he had been a pupil at the public school since the age of 13. At the time of his death, he was studying for Art, Biology, Chemistry and Maths A levels and hoping for a place at Cambridge, University College London or Imperial College.

After A levels the teenager, who was a pupil at Buckfast Abbey School before enrolling at Malvern in 1993, was hoping to teach in Tanzania for eight months before a spell

as a sailing instructor in France. Pupils at the school are expected to carry photo identity cards giving their date of birth.

The Unicorn's manager, Chris Lush, said: "The College has very good relations with the pubs in Malvern. Pupils know we won't serve them without ID. We certainly don't need the custom as it's a lively little town, especially on Saturday night."

"I doubt that even if he left his car it was for long as it is a busy road and he was on a double yellow line. There are some cashpoint machines across the road so he may have stopped to use one of them."

Older pupils at Malvern are allowed to own and drive cars only with the written permission of their parents, which Mr Elwell had been given the necessary authority at the start of the autumn term. They may only carry other pupils as passengers with the approval of both sets of parents.

Keys have to be left with the housemaster and pupils need his permission each time they take a car out. On Saturday night sixth-formers must be back in their boarding houses by 10.30. Twelve pupils within the sixth form are currently permitted to drive.

A spokesman for the school said the policy had been in place for seven years, adding: "However, it is reassessed all the time. They must apply for permission each term."

Malvern College, which was founded in 1862, is co-educational and has 450 boarders and 120 day pupils. The fees are £4,450 a term and famous old boys include CS Lewis, Denholm Elliott, Jeremy Paxman and former Tesco chairman Lord McLaurin.

Superintendent Tony Stanley of West Mercia police said that the decision to refer the matter to the Police Complaints Authority had been taken by the deputy chief constable. He said: "We cannot say if Julian had been drinking at the pub or not. His movements and his activities will no doubt be part of the investigation."



Julian Elwell, 17: he hoped to become a doctor after university, his father said

Anger at reports of road rage victim's drug past

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE family of a man who died with his girlfriend in an apparent "road rage" attack reacted with outrage yesterday to reports that he had been convicted of attempting to supply drugs.

The killings of Toby Exley, 22, and his girlfriend Karen Martin, 20, whose car was shunted across a dual carriageway by another motorist, took a new twist when it was disclosed that Mr Exley, who was driving, was still on two years' probation at the time of his death.

He had been fined £210 and put on a rehabilitation programme last year after being convicted of possessing amphetamines. Ecstasy and cannabis with intent to supply. He had been arrested by drugs squad officers outside a nightclub in Putney, south-west London, just after Christmas 1995, it was reported.

Yesterday's News of the World quoted an unnamed underground source as saying Mr Exley was a well known cocaine dealer. Mr Exley's mother Joan and his brothers Robin, 19, and Ben, 17, from Teddington, west London, have issued a statement defending the dead chef's reputation.

The statement read: "We the Exley family are disgusted by the allegations printed in today's papers. Toby was not a drugs dealer. Toby has no connection with any drug warlords or barons. Toby never came into contact with cocaine. Toby's arrest came on Boxing Day, 1995, the anniversary of his father's death. He hadn't come from a club. He was at home with his family. He did not sell any drugs to anyone else, he was caught in possession."

Mr Exley had also been fined £800 in 1994 after being convicted of stealing from a car, but the family's statement made no mention of that.

Scotland Yard would say only that it was looking at a number of lines of inquiry as 20 detectives continued narrowing down the search for the killer's vehicle. The search has been narrowed to 5,000 cars.

Rape victim was locked for hours in boot of car

By PAUL WHITTAKER

A WOMAN made a desperate call for help from a mobile phone while locked in the boot of her Mercedes by an abductor who later raped her during a terrifying seven-hour ordeal.

The woman, who met her attacker in Loughborough, Leicestershire, at about 1.45am on Saturday before later being attacked in nearby Shepshed, rang the pre-programmed number of a colleague on a mobile phone hidden in her pocket. But her frantic call proved to be in vain.

After being alerted by the colleague, police quickly dispatched patrol cars and a search helicopter to the disorientated woman's last known location, but by daylight they had failed to find any trace of her.

The woman, who was being interviewed yesterday by rape crisis officers, was discovered by a farmer who heard her cries for help and hanging on her boot lid at about 9.30am in a remote field at Gelscoe

Farm, between the villages of Belton and Tonge, on the Leicestershire-Derbyshire border.

Detective Superintendent Bryan Warraker, who is leading the hunt for the rapist, yesterday described the attack as particularly cruel and violent. "It was a terrifying ordeal. Without a shadow of a doubt, this is a man we must catch as we have fears he will offend again."

The offender told her to take him to Shepshed, about seven miles out of Loughborough, and started directing her through dark back roads and small country lanes. She became nervous and when she tried to turn around he grabbed the steering wheel, overpowered her and bundled her into the boot.

Mr Warraker said that the woman was able to make a call at 2am before her abductor heard her talking as he was beginning to drive off. He then switched the phone from her. The woman, who suffered

severe bruising after being struck in the face, was raped twice by her assailant and had her money stolen.

She was first attacked in farmland before being forced back into the boot, driven further into a field and assaulted behind a hedge.

Mr Warraker said that the man, who had a local accent, was slim, white, in his late teens with short fair hair and a small hoop earring. He was wearing a white T-shirt and dark jeans, and would have had mud on his clothes after walking a long distance.

"Anyone who saw a similarly described person in the early hours of October 18 should come forward immediately. It is quite likely that the offender would have mud on his shoes or on the bottom of his trousers and would be cold and damp when he returned home," Mr Warraker said. Anyone with information should contact the incident room at Loughborough on 0116 222 2222.

Keays will face court on publicity for daughter

By EMMA WILKINS

SARA KEAYS, former mistress of Lord Parkinson, has been summoned to appear at the High Court today over a series of newspaper interviews. Ms Keays is the subject of an injunction which since 1993 has banned her from making any public reference to the upbringing of her daughter Flora, who is now 13.

The Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, will ask the court to appoint a psychologist to examine Flora to see if she has been affected by the publicity. Ms Keays, who will be contesting the application, said: "I have been summoned to appear and I will be there. I am not going to allow anyone to examine Flora."

Ms Keays said she would ask the court to lift the "gagging" order. "My rights as Flora's mother have been infringed in a grotesque way. The injunction has given Flora no protection whatsoever."

RSC plays Chelsea at their own game

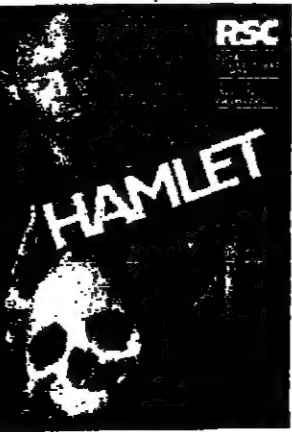
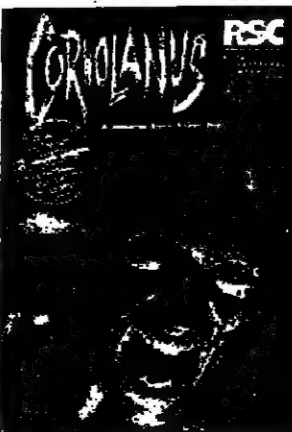
By CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

DEATH and violence in the plays of William Shakespeare are being used to tempt Nineties man away from the football terraces and into the theatre.

The Royal Shakespeare Company is playing up the bloodier and more juddish elements of the Bard's work in the hope of persuading young men to swap the drama of the speeder stadium for live action on stage.

Theatre managers are concerned that the majority of theatre tickets are bought by women and they aim to swell attendance figures by tapping into a new audience. Men under 30 are the least represented group, but often have the most spare money for leisure pursuits.

A poster campaign about to be launched on the London Underground shows Hamlet holding Yorick's skull as if it



The Coriolanus poster that inspired the series — and a "juddish" advertisement for Hamlet

were a football beneath the words "On your head". Further posters are planned to coincide with rugby matches. In a special advertising campaign in the sports pages of newspapers, Henry V is trumpeted as the macho warrior fighting for England. The advert is headlined: "In 1415

away games were life and death". The RSC was inspired to carry out the campaign after the success of a poster to promote a production of Coriolanus at the time the violent film Natural Born Killers was released in Britain. It was a graphic picture

showing Coriolanus, "a natural born killer", drenched in blood and had a "tremendous" response from the public.

"We are trying to relate to men on their own level and say that there is a lot in Shakespeare that will connect with them," said Andy Cole, spokesman for the RSC. "They might pay £25 to watch Chelsea play but could pay as little as £6 to watch a Shakespeare play."

RSC research shows that women buy 60 per cent of theatre tickets and of the men who buy them relatively few are under 40.

Frances Hughes, secretary of the Shakespeare Reading Society, said men were under-represented in theatre attendance. "I go to the theatre 50 or 60 times a year and young men are very much in the minority," she said.

Henry V is at the Barbican from November 4. Hamlet plays from November 28.

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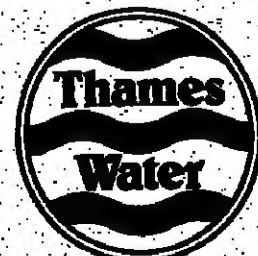
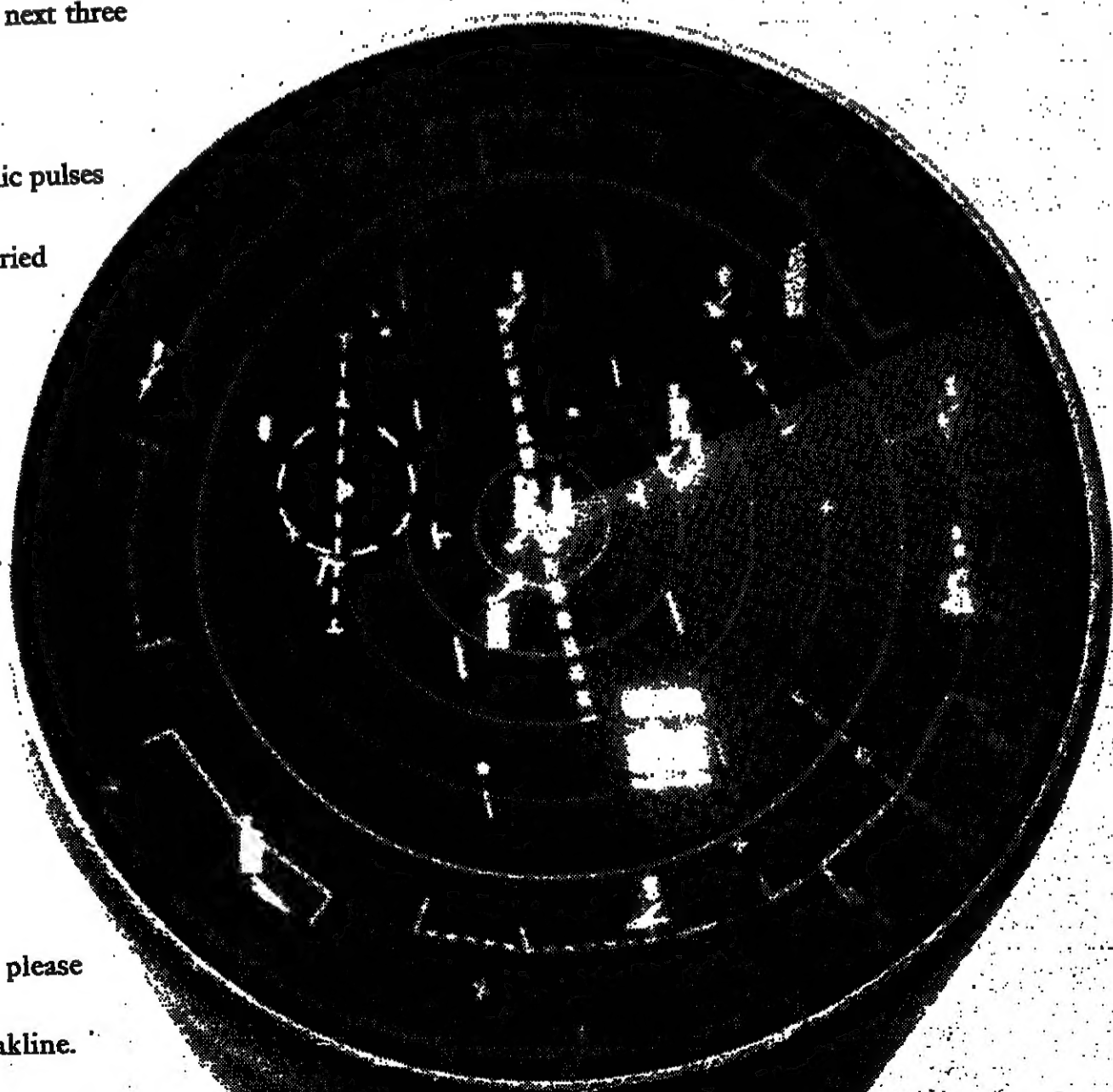
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A flow of good ideas.

Romany refugees head for Britain after Canada closes the door

Up to 6,000 gypsies say they face racial attacks and state persecution in eastern Europe, write Roger Boyes and Ruth Gledhill

ROMANIES claiming political asylum in Kent are among thousands fleeing persecution and unemployment in eastern Europe. German police say as many as 6,000 Romanies are involved in the westward migration. Thousands more join them this winter.

Skinhead and rightwing extremist attacks have been increasing on Romanies — in August a gang in west Bohemia set fire to an apartment block where 16 Romanies were staying. Curfews have been imposed on Romanies in Slovak villages, and the Slovak Government has cut child benefit

to Romanies to curb the "reproduction of socially unacceptable people". The first goal of Czech and Slovak Romanies this year was Canada, after a flattering portrayal of the country's policy towards Romany immigrants on the Czech Republic's main private television station. But the focus has shifted to Britain, partly because Canada is now insisting on stricter entry rules, including proof that the Romanies are planning to return

to the Czech Republic and bank accounts showing enough money to support their stay in Canada. Many Romanies, having sold their belongings on the strength of the television broadcast, now find they cannot meet the Canadian visa regulations. Britain has become the destination of choice, partly because it too was portrayed in a good light by television reporters and partly because of rumours circulating in the Romany population that it is easy to move from

Britain to Canada. There are now more than 4 million Romanies living in eastern and central Europe, treated with hostility by most local communities. In 1993 when Czechoslovakia broke up, Prague classified over 250,000 Romanies as Slovak citizens, even though two thirds were born on Czech territory. Slovakia thus gained a huge Romany minority, which has swollen to around 400,000. Many Romanies applying for citizenship in the Czech

Republic have been defeated by bureaucracy requiring them to present proof of registered residence and a clean criminal record. Many have been denied benefits because of widespread illiteracy. In Bulgaria there is a Romany population of 400,000, many of whom live in ghettos on the fringes of Sofia and other cities. Brutal police treatment ensures that they do not stray far from these shanty towns. The unemployment rate for Romanies is high — around 25 per

cent in most east European countries — and some younger Romanies have been drawn into organised crime, especially cross-border car theft. In 1992 Germany found itself the target of a massive migration, similar to that possibly facing Britain. Romanies from Romania poured into Germany and claimed asylum. They quickly found themselves subjected to neo-Nazi violence and caused political embarrassment in Bonn. After

several months of negotiation, Bucharest was offered a cash sum to resettle the Romanies and tens of thousands were deported. Romanies still enter Germany, wading illegally across the Oder river. According to Isabel Fonseca, author of *Bury My Standing*, a study of gypsy life in Europe, where most of the world's 12 million gypsies live, the Czech Republic has introduced some "draconian" laws which effectively disenfranchise gypsies.

Footballers bet on matches in defiance of FA

FOOTBALLERS routinely gamble on matches in breach of an FA rule, a committee of inquiry into match-fixing allegations will report. Clubs are threatening to bring the professional game into disrepute by turning a blind eye or claiming that they do not know the rules, it will say.

The inquiry, led by Sir John Smith, a former Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was set up after three players were acquitted in August of match-rigging. They included Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper, and John Fashanu, the former England international.

Sir John was asked to look at possible disciplinary action against Mr Grobbelaar and his co-defendant Hans Segers, and links between British soccer and Far Eastern gambling syndicates. The report is being completed and, according to football sources, Sir John is expected to say that the Far Eastern connections raised in the match-fixing trial are not replicated elsewhere in British soccer. There was found to be no attempt by wealthy gambling syndicates in Malaysia, Singapore and other areas to influence matches. But the report is expected to leave the FA worried and embarrassed over domestic gambling.

Since 1990 there have been

An inquiry will reveal gambling collusion by clubs, report Stewart Tendler and John Goodbody

three occasions when players and managers have been found gambling on their own matches, and in 1994 the FA warned the game about betting. Under rule 26a (IV), players, referees and officials who assist or take part in gambling on football, apart from the football pools, face unlimited penalties, including being banned from the game. Sir John took evidence from within the game and from the betting industry. His report is expected to show a significant number of players placing money on match results and other bets, such as likely goalscorers, although the sums are not large.

Players do not always know the rules and clubs are also ignorant or are prepared to look the other way. Club officials told the inquiry that they did not see the importance of the rule. It is believed that players may sign profes-

sional contracts without being told the extent of the rule.

The FA may have to issue a new public warning to the game about gambling and to set an example by severely punishing any players who are caught. When the Smith inquiry was announced in August, the FA said that there had been talks about setting up a unit to oversee the ethical side of the game and this is certain to be raised again.

Although there is no sign that the gambling has led to corruption, football administrators must be aware of the risks. Some players have in recent years got into serious financial difficulties over gambling on other sports.

Many older supporters remember the match-fixing scandal in the mid-1960s, which featured a week-long in a BBC television programme. Ten players were jailed and dismissed from the game. They included the former England and Sheffield Wednesday players Peter Swan and Tony Kay. They received £100 each for fixing a 1962 match between Ipswich and Sheffield Wednesday, which Ipswich won despite being second from the bottom of the First Division.

A former Everton and Charlton Athletic player, Jimmy Gauld, was jailed for four years for fixing up to 14 matches.



Lena Young, whose late father, a British actor, married her Thai mother in 1991

British girl, 3, begging in Thailand resort

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

A BRITISH girl aged 3 has been found begging on the streets in Thailand after her father died.

Lena Young was found washing clothes and begging in the beach resort of Pattaya. Her father, Stanley Young, an actor, died aged 54 when she was two weeks old. The girl's mother, Anongnart Young, 35, a Thai national, says that she was refused help from the British Embassy in Bangkok and was told to contact a lawyer. The embassy has promised an inquiry.

Mrs Young says she tried to contact Lena's relatives in Birmingham but they had disowned the young girl. The beach resort is notorious for its sex trade. The local account which showed he had £92,983 in 1992.

Mrs Young's family in Britain insisted that he died in Bangkok. His sister, Anne Magosfalvi, said he had been penniless most of his life and had become remote from close family. "I have not seen him for 15 years."

Mrs Magosfalvi added that both her parents had died and Mr Young's two adult children from a first marriage had barely been in contact. Mr Young's ex-wife Julie, who lives in Coventry, said that she was struggling on benefits, to raise the couple's only son Charlie, a 16-year-old who suffers from cerebral palsy. She insisted that her husband had had no money when he visited them.

visa to Britain, but she postponed the trip because of her pregnancy. She claimed that while her husband was on his last trip home she was notified by the British Embassy in Bangkok that he had died of a heart attack on February 16, 1994.

She claimed she had tried to contact the rest of the family in Birmingham and to see if her husband had left any money for his daughter in the will. The British Embassy in Bangkok, she said, declined to help.

"After he died, I heard nothing from his family in England. We lived simply, but we were well-off," said Mrs Young, who showed a page of his building society *Pattaya Mail* has launched an appeal to help the girl, who has British citizenship. The child had been washing clothes for tourists, with her mother, for £15 a month and whatever they can both beg or borrow.

A spokesman for the British Embassy in Bangkok said: "We are on the case. We are looking into the matter."

Lena's parents married in a Thai register office in 1991. Mr Young was a bit-part actor and his income was sporadic, but he once played a Swiss burglar in the *William Tell* television series. With the spread of satellite television, showing old programmes, he received repeat fees.

After the couple married, Mrs Young was granted a

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Arctic whaling tribes accused of cruelty

Aboriginal rights are increasingly at odds with international moves to ban slaughter, writes Nick Nuttall

HIGH in the Arctic, a desperate people are slaughtering gray whales with Second World War rifles and home-made harpoons in defiance of international rules, according to an investigation by the Humane Society.

The findings of the study into so-called aboriginal whaling, by the Yupik and Chukchi people of the Bering Straits, are to be presented to an international Whaling Commission meeting, opening today in Monaco. The society will highlight growing fears that Eskimos, Inuits and other tribes are killing more whales than they need, and that the method used is barbaric.

The Makah tribe of Washington state, which last hunted in the 1930s, will be asking the commission for the right to resume hunting of the gray whale off the West Coast of America, claiming a need to reassert cultural rights. Environmentalists fear the meat will end up in smart Tokyo restaurants, rather than be consumed by local tribes.

At least 13 native groups and tribes in Russia, Canada and Japan, are expected to submit similar claims if the Makah's bid for five grays a year is approved.

Ivor Llewellyn, the Government's representative at the

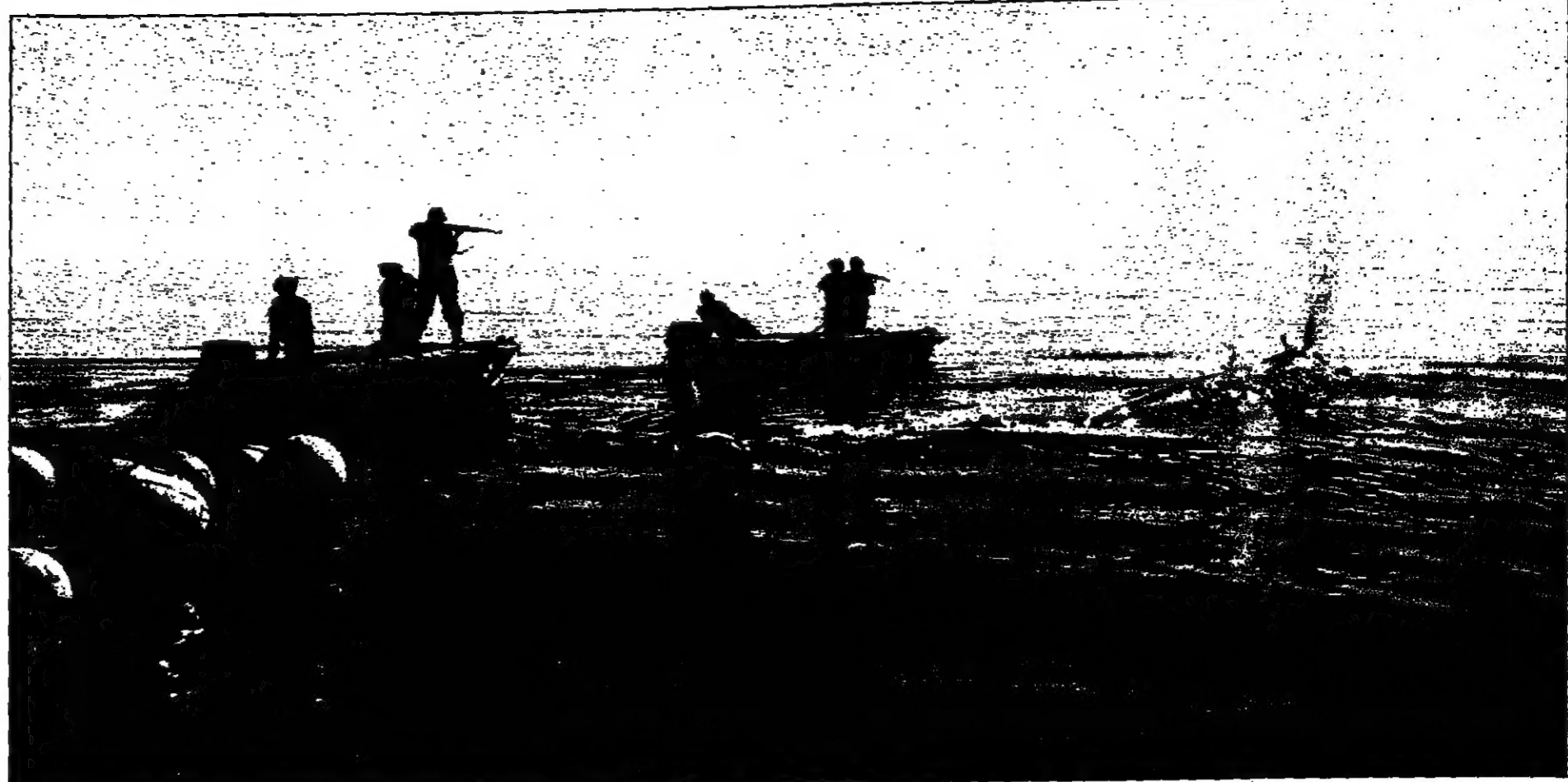
meeting, said last night that other Alaskan whalers, who are closely related to the Chukchi, had offered help, including more powerful rifles, in an attempt to reduce the cruelty of the Siberian hunt.

The difficulty of policing quotas and ensuring they meet modern standards of animal welfare are underscored by the investigation into the Siberian Yupik Eskimo and Chukchi people. Under commission rules, tribal peoples with a long tradition of whaling, or who have a pressing need for whales as food, can apply for hunting quotas.

The Siberian Yupik and Chukchi have a quota of 140 gray whales a year. But the hunt must not be commercial, should minimise cruelty and should target only adult animals. The investigators, led by Eleanor

O'Hanlon, an environmental researcher commissioned by the Humane Society, found that nearly half the whale meat from the hunts was being used as feed for commercial fur farms rather than for the hunters and their families.

Female whales nursing calves are also being illegally harpooned and shot. The hunts, using at 50-year-old



The Humane Society claims that tribes are using 50-year-old Soviet rifles to kill whales. In one illegal hunt of a female gray with her calf, it took 700 bullets to kill the adult

Soviet-made rifles and hand-held lances and harpoons, are cruel and lengthy. During one hunt of a female gray with her calf, it took more than two hours and nearly 700 bullets to kill the adult.

Patricia Forkan, of the Humane Society, yesterday called on nations including Britain to put pressure on Russia to crack down on the hunt. The society, one of the

world's oldest animal welfare groups, said it would be pressing the commission's members to cut the quota for the Yupik and Chukchi to 60 whales a year.

Ms O'Hanlon said it was also vital that the Eskimos and Chukchi were supplied with modern weapons to reduce the cruelty. She said aid was needed to help those peoples affected by the collapse of the

former Soviet Union. "These people are not villains. They have been abandoned. As a result they are suffering and the whales are suffering too," she said.

Research presented yesterday to the commission's humane killing workshop shows that even the most modern slaughtering methods can be cruel. The Japanese use the electric lance, claiming it stops

an animal's heart in seconds. But researchers say it is incapable of generating sufficient electricity to kill the whale.

Per Madie and Geoff Barnes, scientists at Massey University in New Zealand, said yesterday: "We claim it is not the electric lance that kills the whale but the considerable blood loss. It is possible that the electric lance helps them on their way. But if it really

worked it should kill a whale within five seconds. However, in some cases it is taking up to 20 minutes or longer."

Last night it emerged that the Japanese whaling fleet could scrap the electric lance. Mr Llewellyn said that in talks yesterday the Japanese had said tests with rifles had proved successful.

The concern over aboriginal whaling comes amid growing

alarm among conservationists over a proposal before the commission for a global sanctuary. Ireland's proposal, which scores of nations including Britain sympathise, calls for all whaling, both commercial and scientific, to be banned from international waters. In return the commission's members might back coastal whaling in a country's territorial waters.

Cherie Booth backs lung cancer alert

By POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

CHERIE BOOTH is to give her support to a campaign that begins next week to increase awareness of lung cancer, by hosting a reception at Downing Street.

The Prime Minister's wife recently hosted a similar event at No 10 to promote the fight against breast cancer. Next week's reception marks the start of a campaign by the charity Macmillan Cancer

Relief to highlight the growing incidence of lung cancer among women. Ms Booth's guests, many of whom are editors of women's magazines, will hear the results of new research into treatment of lung cancer sufferers.

A letter from Ms Booth accompanying invitations to the reception says that, if current trends continue, cases of lung cancer in women will double over the next 20 years. It says that nine out of ten cases of lung cancer are

connected to smoking, and points out that smoking is on the increase among women.

Ms Booth's decision to involve herself closely in the campaign against lung cancer dovetails with the Government's determination to reduce smoking. Last week, Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, renewed that commitment after researchers published new evidence connecting passive smoking with increased incidence of lung cancer.



Booth will host reception at 10 Downing Street

Tighter rules needed on smear tests

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INVESTIGATION into the way a hospital carried out cervical smear tests will call today for a new code of standards to restore confidence in the NHS screening programme.

The highly critical report into what went wrong at Kent and Canterbury Hospitals NHS Trust between 1990 and 1995 is expected to reveal that inefficient management, poor training and severe understaffing led to 345 women being wrongly given the all-clear after a test. At least three of the women, by the hospital's

own admission, died from a cancer which could have been successfully treated if spotted in time. Many others needed hysterectomies and chemotherapy.

The report has been drawn up by Sir William Wells, chairman of the South Thames Health Authority. Although it focuses on Kent and Canterbury, it draws attention to the need for stricter controls throughout the national screening programme.

Smear test scares in the late 1980s and early 1990s led to thousands of women being recalled for tests in Liverpool, London, Scotland and Mid-Glamorgan. In 1994 Julietta Patrick was appointed to

co-ordinate the screening programme and last year guidelines were published requiring better training and management from all laboratories doing the tests. About two thirds of these laboratories have so far been accredited.

The mistakes in reporting in Kent were first noticed in October 1995 when checks revealed that there were errors in 19 per cent of the tests compared with a national target of 15 per cent. The hospital has admitted liability in only 25 cases but more than 70 women have so far asked Sarah Harman, a Canterbury solicitor, to sue for compensation. Others are expected to follow.

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MI6 fed Cold War propaganda to BBC

Michael Evans reports on evidence that the corporation collaborated in anti-communist broadcasts to East

BBC correspondents in Eastern Europe in the 1950s, including the veteran broadcaster Charles Wheeler, were fed classified material gleaned from covert intercepts of Soviet bloc communications in a secret government operation to generate anti-communist propaganda broadcasts during the Cold War.

In another private arrangement between the BBC and the Foreign Office, confidential letters written to BBC correspondents by people living in the communist bloc at the start of the Cold War were passed on to MI6.

The extent of the secret collaboration between the BBC and the Government in transmitting propaganda into Eastern Europe in the 1950s is disclosed by Michael Nelson, formerly of the news agency Reuters, who has been

allowed full access to BBC archives. "The Foreign Office regarded the BBC as by far the most important propaganda weapon it had in Eastern Europe," he says.

He discloses that a Foreign Office unit called the Information Research Department (IRD), which was linked to MI6 and funded from the secret vote, used to give details of clandestine intercepts of East German and Russian communications to Wheeler when he was based in Berlin in the early 1950s.

Wheeler would send the material, selected to cast East Germany in a bad light, to London for the BBC's German Service programmes, Mr Nelson says in *War of the Black Heavens*, published by Brassey's next month.

The Cabinet approved the creation of the IRD for propa-



Nelson had full access to corporation archives

ganda operations that would "emphasise the weakness of communism". The BBC agreed to co-operate.

A Foreign Office telegram sent to all British Embassies said that the new policy was "of particular secrecy". In fact, the Russians were fully aware of it. Kim Philby was the MI6 representative on the Russia Committee of the Foreign Office and Guy Burgess worked, briefly, for the IRD.

Ernest Bevin, then Foreign Secretary, wrote a secret

memo in April 1948 in which he said that the Government's views should be made clear in Iron Curtain countries principally through the BBC. Mr Nelson says: "The correspondent of the BBC External Services in Berlin was an important channel."

The post had been established with the title BBC European Service liaison officer. Wheeler was assigned to the Berlin post in 1949. Mr Nelson says: "One of the two IRD men in Berlin would visit him in his office armed with cyclostyled sheets of information. He was not allowed to look at them, but the IRD man paraphrased the contents."

They were mostly "gossipy news items" about East Germany which Wheeler sent to the German Service in London. "The IRD had access to the clandestine British intercepts of domestic East German communications, so it was not too difficult to find items that put the regime in a bad light or stories that made it look foolish," Mr Nelson says.

From the end of 1954 the



Charles Wheeler, as a BBC correspondent, sent material to London chosen to cast East Germany in a bad light

BBC also agreed to pass letters from East European countries "to a secret department of the Foreign Office" (MI6).

Wheeler, who left Berlin in 1953, knowingly gave information to MI6 on only one occasion. This was at the request of a young West German engineer who had

been advised to contact Wheeler by a BBC engineer. He gave Wheeler information and asked to be put in touch with MI6.

Mr Nelson says: "Wheeler discouraged this idea, but agreed to pass on to British Intelligence what the engineer told him."

Wheeler tells how he fought the good fight

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES WHEELER, now 74, looks back without regret on his days as a "Cold Warrior", when he was the BBC External Services' man in Berlin.

"I used to get regular visits from the Information Research Department. Peter Seckelmann used to come and see me with snippets which I think were taken from intercepts from the Berlin tunnel — the 600-yard tunnel dug by MI6 and the CIA beneath the city's Soviet zone."

"I would pass anything interesting back to the German Service in London. It was all done on an old boys' basis."

There was a quid pro quo: I handed over material to the IRD and they gave me stuff back. At that stage, before the Berlin Wall went up, I used to have contacts with East Germans and when they told me things, I would pass them on. Remember, this was the height of the Cold War."

He did not know that Major-General Sir Ian Jacob, Controller of the BBC European Service in the early part of the Cold War, was a member of the Foreign Office's secret Russia Committee, which devised propaganda strategies against the Soviet Union. Jacob later became BBC Director-General.

Wheeler said: "I wasn't sent out from London with any particular instructions, but I knew that the stuff I was sending back was being used in the propaganda broadcasts into Eastern Europe. That

was the job in those days. That didn't mean it was lies. It wasn't black propaganda."

"The German Service used to put on some very clever dramas that were broadcast in East Germany. During the war, the service used to run a programme called *The Two Nazis* but in the Cold War it switched to *The Two Communists*. It was very effective."

Wheeler described how he got the job in Berlin. "I had lived in Germany before the war, my father worked there. I spoke the language and I had been in Naval Intelligence at the end of the war, so I was in touch with the BBC's External Services."

Services correspondent in Berlin needed to be replaced, someone came into the newsroom where I was a sub-editor and asked for volunteers. I went out to Berlin in 1949. I was only supposed to stay for six months, but I loved it and stayed until 1953.

"I suppose I was a Cold War warrior: I had seen the Nazis in the war and East Germany didn't seem any different after the war from what it was like under the Nazis. It was as much of a police state under communism as it had been under the Nazis."

"The domestic service had nothing to do with the propaganda side. My domestic counterpart in Berlin, Patrick Smith, was totally straight and disapproved of what I was doing. He thought I was just a propagandist. I didn't see myself like that."

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Prince Michael to contest writ for £105,000

By EMMA WILKINS

PRINCE Michael of Kent will defend "rigorously" a writ issued by a former business adviser alleging £105,000 in unpaid bills, a spokeswoman for the Prince said yesterday.

Coles Remnant, who parted company with the Prince in May, issued the writ at the High Court in London seeking damages for breach of a signed business agreement.

The spokeswoman said: "HRH Prince Michael's lawyers have received a writ addressed to HRH. The service of the writ has not yet been properly executed. The proceedings will be rigorously defended by Prince Michael."

The case threatens to embarrass the Prince by revealing his financial troubles. He and his wife, Princess Michael, do not receive any Civil List payment, but are expected to carry out official duties as Royal Family members.

Mr Remnant, 42, a former insurance specialist, claims that the Prince agreed to divide equally with him any income and commission from joint business ventures. He also claims a 25 per cent share of retained fees paid by clients. The sum claimed is £105,456.

Mr Remnant, who lives

near Saffron Walden, Essex, said he was unable to discuss details of the claim as he was bound by a confidentiality agreement.

Earlier this year, reports suggested that Prince and Princess Michael were £2 million in debt to Coutts Bank. They are believed to have suffered heavy Lloyd's losses. In 1991, the couple bought Nether Lypiatt Manor in Gloucestershire for £300,000 and spent £450,000 refurbishing it.

Prince Michael has appeared on American television to promote a mail-order business selling House of Windsor souvenirs and is reported to have offered himself for hire as a corporate party host for £60,000 a year.



Prince Michael: sued by business adviser



Photo: © Ron Evenden

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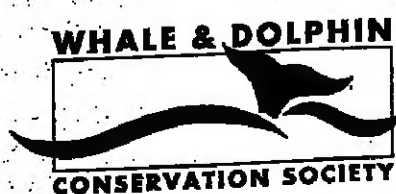
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Turning heads: a new angle on 'ruined' picture

A SKULL on a renovated masterpiece is expected to make heads turn at the National Gallery, after an accusation that restorers have ruined its design. The row centres on finding a correct angle at which to view Holbein's *The Ambassadors*.

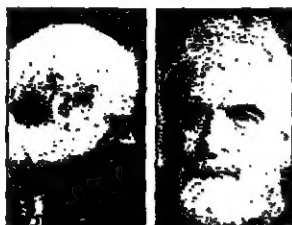
The enigmatic skull is a crucial feature of one of the nation's most prized paintings. Holbein painted it anamorphically, so that it appears distorted unless looked at the right way.

One of the gallery's severest critics says that Holbein would not recognise the result of the restored work. Michael Daley, an illustrator and director of ArtWatch UK, which campaigns for the welfare of works of art, has used his expertise as a draughtsman to argue that the restorers misunderstood the laws of perspective. He said: "In key respects, the skull and its significance have been misunderstood. Its design has been altered in apparent ignorance of the artist's method."

Holbein's enormous double-portrait of two diplomats to the Court of Henry VIII, painted in London in 1533, underwent a three-year restoration programme, completed last year. It included repatching the skull after the removal of varnish and earlier repaints exposed losses in the original paint.

Mr Daley says that the distorted, elongated design rights itself when seen through a glass cylinder: "They tried to make it work

Dalya Alberge
on how gallery is accused of ignorance for its perspective on Holbein skull



Opposing viewpoints: Wyld and Daley

from the extreme right-hand viewpoint, which was never intended. To try to make it more intelligible, they changed the proportions of the jaw, making it stick out much further. They've made a ghastly blunder."

Mr Daley suggests that Holbein was playing artistic games with a viewing device. The glass cylinder might have been a secret gift from his royal patron. Earlier in his reign, Henry VIII had been painted "in such a cunning manner that the face, when looked at through a peculiar optic, seemed larger than the whole body".

The gallery felt that *The*

Ambassadors had badly deteriorated through the ravages of time, water damage and earlier restoration. Mr Daley, who felt there was no need for drastic repairs, let alone repainting, is among those who believe that restorers should not rework a painting to how they imagine it once looked.

"Viewing from the far right does not correct the perspective. Seen from that position, the cranium remains grotesquely distended. On the other hand, seen from the left, the near eye socket is alarmingly disproportionate."

The latest issue of *Art Review*, published on Thursday, will elaborate on his findings to coincide with the gallery's exhibition on the painting, "Making and Meaning", opening on November 5, and a BBC series, *Making Masterpieces*, beginning tonight.

Previously, Mr Daley has attacked the National Gallery's restorers for over-cleaning works by Titian and Veronese. His new study backs concerns initially expressed by John Sharp, a lecturer on art and perspective who also writes computer manuals. In 1994, he contacted the gallery after noticing that their Microsoft CD-Rom contained "a gross error in the skull". Writing in *Art Review* earlier this year, he said that, although the gallery claimed that the skull appeared in corrected perspective from a "particular point", it failed to identify the point.

The CD-Rom showed a sequence of how the image



The Ambassadors with the skull in foreground: restorers deny a "ghastly blunder" in their three years of work

was developed by using an equally spaced grid of parallel lines which is sheared to reconstruct the skull in a square — "unfortunately, parallel lines do not behave this way in perspective, as anyone with a scientific training would know." The National Gallery has since updated its CD-Rom graphics, conceding that Sharp was correct.

Mr Daley's study was further inspired by the optician Edgar R. Samuel. In 1963, he said, Samuel "noted that the

only truly corrected view arises from the front of the picture when the picture is viewed through a glass tube held at right angles to the lateral axis. Such viewing not only corrects the distortion but also triggers an extraordinary compositional transformation in the picture itself."

David Lee, editor of the *Art Review*, said of Mr Daley's study: "I'm very impressed. He has got them on this. He's proved beyond any doubt that it was never intended to be

seen from the right. It seems the NG in this instance made a first-class pig's ear of it. It doesn't lead one to have confidence that they solicit expert opinion before starting work."

The gallery's chief restorer, Martin Wyld, insisted yesterday that the skull distortions were corrected when the viewer stood in exactly the right spot. He said that he had taken into account various viewpoints on perspective: "It seems to work through a cylinder, and an exact spot

from the right in a certain distance from the picture, and also the left. This is 1533, not 1997, and Holbein had probably not had much experience of this kind of distortion."

He denied that the jaw had been unnaturally distorted: "Holbein's paint survives on most of the jaw." Details such as the fine-case and silk, satin and velvet fabrics were now fully visible.

Mr Daley said: "Perspective can't work from a variety of viewpoints simultaneously."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scouts see volunteer electrocuted by aerial

A retired Scout leader died instantly when he was electrocuted while trying to erect a radio aerial at a forest campsite near Horsham, West Sussex. Dozens of Scouts saw Bernard Worsell, 66, die when the aerial touched overhead power cables carrying 11,000 volts.

His son, Leslie, said his father had volunteered to run the campsite when he retired as a leader of the First Horsham Scout group. "He loved the Scouting life and had been involved for as long as I can remember."

Wheelchair crash

A woman aged 18 went voluntarily to police to be interviewed about an accident in which a car allegedly failed to stop after hitting an electric wheelchair in Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire. A woman in the wheelchair suffered two broken legs.

River ordeal

A woman was stranded for four hours in fog on the roof of her car in the fast-running River Swale, North Yorkshire. The soldier's wife, 27, hit a tree near Catterick Camp in the early hours and drove across fields into the river. She climbed out of a window.

Taken for a ride

A man in his early 20s, who stole a bus with 36 people on board, escaped on foot after a four-mile chase by police in Pontypridd, South Wales. One passenger said: "We'd been waiting on board for a while and I think he just lost patience."

Part-time pilot

Ian Black, 37, of Skelton, North Yorkshire, has become the first weekend fighter pilot to fly with the RAF for 40 years. Flight Lieutenant Black, a pilot for Virgin Atlantic, will fly Tornado fighters under a scheme to relieve pressure on the fighter force.

Trofit poisoned

Hundreds of brown trout died in a tributary of the river Ockrent in west Devon was polluted for 1½ miles by slurry from a farm near Ockrent, the Environment Agency said. An investigation into the incident is under way.

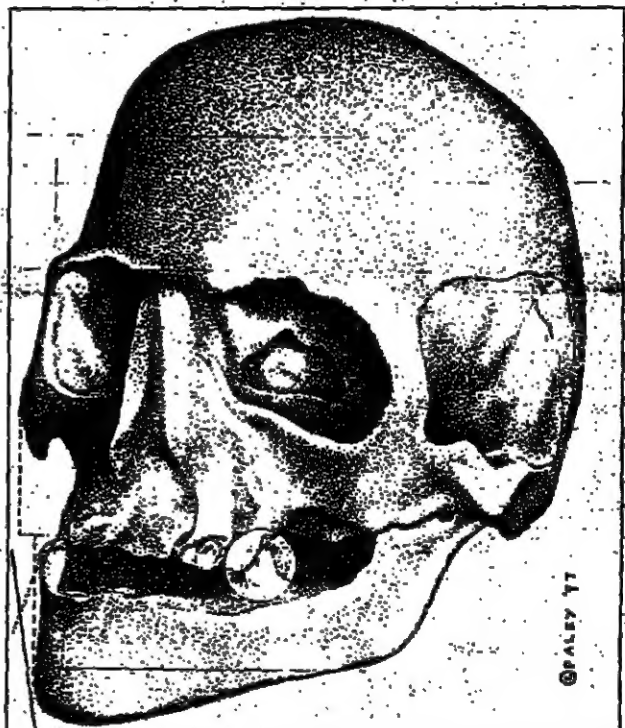
Red-hot bird seed

A new product containing finely ground capsaicin is said to deter squirrels from stealing food from bird tables. Covering seeds and nuts in Squirrel Away gives the rodents the sensation of eating hot curry. Birds will not be able to taste it.

A QUESTION OF PERSPECTIVE: HOW THE EXPERTS ARE DIVIDED OVER THE BEST WAY TO OBSERVE HOLBEIN'S MYSTERIOUS SKULL



On the left is the distorted skull, pictured before restoration. You will see it as a skull if you hold your copy of *The Times* at eye level and view the picture from the top, right-hand corner — the way in which the National Gallery chose to view it for its restoration. However, Michael Daley insists that the skull was designed to be viewed only through a glass cylinder and that the gallery has altered the artist's image. He has produced his own drawings to show how he feels the image has been changed. On the right is his impression of how the skull once looked when viewed through a glass cylinder. Below is his impression of how the restored skull looks when viewed at the angle recommended by the gallery. He says it is no longer possible to see it as intended — through a glass cylinder.



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Anti-bribe chief calls for arrest of Bhutto

PAKISTAN'S chief anti-corruption investigator has asked the Government to arrest Benazir Bhutto and put her on trial, declaring that there was enough evidence to charge the former Prime Minister with embezzlement.

Safur Rehman, chief of the Government's accountability department, said several allegations of corruption against Miss Bhutto were ready to be filed in court. He said the charges would be referred to the Election Commission and the Speaker of the National Assembly to seek her disqualification from parliament.

Mr Rehman, who is also a member of the Senate, disclosed that last week Switzerland had blocked 12 more bank accounts belonging to Miss Bhutto and her imprisoned husband, Asif Ali Zardari. This was in addition to five accounts in the Bhutto family name frozen last month. According to the chief investigator, the Swiss Gov-

Switzerland has blocked 12 more bank accounts, writes Zahid Hussain

ernment has indicated that 15 more accounts of the opposition leader would be frozen soon.

Investigators said the Bhutto family's accounts in Switzerland contain more than £16 million. Mr Rehman declared: "We have substantive evidence that the money deposited in these accounts was siphoned off from the country."

He said that he has asked Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, to order Miss Bhutto's arrest. However, he added that a decision on whether to



Benazir Bhutto in her Karachi home at the weekend. She denied bank accounts frozen by the Swiss are hers

arrest her would be dictated by political considerations.

Mr Rehman suggested that Miss Bhutto might be put on an exit control list to prevent her fleeing the country.

Miss Bhutto has denied that the frozen Swiss bank accounts belonged to her. "I'm

confused whose accounts have been frozen," she declared. The former Prime Minister said she did not have any connection with accounts frozen by the Swiss Government. But she added: "Even if they freeze my accounts, so what? Many people have accounts in

foreign banks." She said that allegations of corruption were "absolutely untrue and baseless". Last week, Miss Bhutto filed an appeal asking the Sindh High Court to stop the Government from what she described as a "malicious media trial" against her and

her family. Miss Bhutto also asked the court to direct the Government to furnish her with the documents about the Swiss bank accounts allegedly belonging to her and her husband. The court will begin the hearing on her appeal on Wednesday.

Queen's visit was disaster, says Delhi

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

THE QUEEN and Duke of Edinburgh bade farewell to India, perhaps for the last time, on Saturday to virtual jeering by government officials, politicians and the press.

Indian government spokesmen made it clear that the trip would be remembered mostly as a disaster, although there were indications last night that Delhi was ready to start playing down the row.

The British are puffed that their Queen has been insulted by these uncouth natives and the Indians are upset by perceived racism and insensitivity, a government official said. Such language became typical in the final days of the royal tour, which was designed to improve Anglo-Indian ties but instead drove them to their lowest ebb in years.

The Queen's reference to "historic disagreements" and "historical hostilities" in speeches in Pakistan and India were interpreted in Delhi as hidden political statements calling for negotiations to settle the Kashmir dispute. This was seen as interference in India's domestic affairs.

Indians are upset by what they saw as racism and lack of tact

for what went wrong. L.M. Singhvi, the Indian High Commissioner to London, said that enormous enthusiasm and affection had been shown to the Queen. But he admitted there was political friction. "There is a certain candour which allows us to speak robustly to each other, but that doesn't mean there is no warmth between us. There is no nostalgia for the Raj."

India blames the Foreign Office for several mishaps during the trip. "I hope this unnecessary controversy does not affect the substance of ties between the two countries," a senior Delhi official said. "Britain may not be as influential, but it is an important economic partner. The focus should have been to build on economic partnership rather than political theatrics." He accused Mr Cook of "playing to the gallery of his constituents, saying one thing in Pakistan and obfuscating in India".

Even the last minutes of the Queen's visit were blighted. Police tried to stop Geoffrey Crawford, her press secretary, from boarding her plane at Madras for the flight home. Jane Wildash, deputy director of the state visit, was jostled when she tried to intervene. When Group Captain Roger Wedge, the British air attaché in Delhi, went to help, an Indian policeman yelled: "I'm in charge." Eventually, Mr Crawford was allowed to board.

Some newspapers are still expressing anger at the Duke for saying the number of people killed in the Amritsar massacre of 1919 was exaggerated on a notice at the site, which refers to "2,000 martyrs." The accepted death toll is 379, with 1,200 wounded.

Mandela attacks 'arrogant' US in Libya visit row



Mandela: applauded

FROM INIGO GILMORI IN JOHANNESBURG

IN THE face of mounting domestic and international criticism over his visit to Libya this week, President Mandela has inflamed concerns about a damaging diplomatic row between South Africa and the United States by accusing Washington of arrogance and warning the Clinton administration not to meddle in his country's affairs.

At a banquet in Johannesburg, held at the weekend in honour of Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian President, Mr Mandela delivered an emotional outburst against American

criticism of his planned visit to Tripoli. "How can they have the arrogance to dictate to us where we should go or who our friends should be?" he said. "They are so dull... can you imagine what they would say if I said Boris Yeltsin should not visit Albania? They would say that I am the most arrogant black man."

While some guests were visibly stunned by his outburst, others were clearly delighted and they applauded when Mr Mandela added: "Notwithstanding the changes in the world, the contempt for blacks is still deep-seated, [but] I am master of my fate."

Mr Mandela's outburst was the

latest salvo in a deepening diplomatic row that erupted after Mr Mandela's Government announced he would visit Libya on Wednesday en route to the Commonwealth heads of government summit in Edinburgh. His visit has drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties in South Africa and the Clinton Administration, which sees Libya as a "rogue" state. The US State Department said last week it would be "disappointed" if Mr Mandela went ahead with the trip.

Commentators in South Africa have said the visit could damage diplomatic and economic links with America and Britain, the biggest investors in the

country, because of Libya's refusal to extradite two men suspected of bombing a PanAm airliner over Lockerbie in 1988. The issue is expected to dominate talks between Mr Mandela and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

After a warning from Washington that the visit could contravene a UN ban on flying to Libya, South Africa's Foreign Ministry announced that Mr Mandela would travel by road to Tripoli from Tunisia. Departing from his prepared speech at the banquet, Mr Mandela said: "Libya was one of those countries that supported us during our struggle when others were working with the apartheid regime."



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Fugitive godfather 'leading Mafia revival'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THERE is growing evidence that the Mafia has regrouped under a reinvigorated leadership after a series of setbacks at the hands of the State, prosecutors said at the weekend. They added that the programme of state-protected "supergrass", or *pentiti*, which has provided the authorities with much of their ammunition against Cosa Nostra, was "faltering".

Guido Lo Forte, deputy prosecutor in Palermo, said leading *pentiti* were reverting to Mafia activities, and in some cases had never stopped while accepting state protection and cash. He said the Mafia had suffered a series of defeats in the five years since it murdered Giovanni Falcone, the judge. The killing set off a wave of popular revulsion against Cosa Nostra, not least in Sicily, and in the subsequent crackdown police "decapitated" the organisation by tracking down and arresting its bosses.

The arrest of Salvatore "Totò" Riina, the "boss of bosses" in 1993, was followed by the capture of his successor, Giovanni Brusca, last year, and of Pietro Aglieri in June this year, allegedly after a tip-off from Brusca.

But Signor Lo Forte said that after a period when the Mafia had been forced "underground", a new "highly refined and intelligent strategist, probably with international criminal links" was in charge of organised crime in Italy. A "Cosa Nostra Mark Two" had been born, and was involved in international drug dealing, arms smuggling and money laundering. He said the most likely godfather was Bernardo Provenzano, who with Riina, his childhood friend, had taken the Mafia from its rural origins into property dealing, drugs and international crime. Signor

Provenzano and Riina had fallen out, and now that Riina was behind bars, Signor Provenzano was the new "boss of bosses". Signor Lo Forte said. Now in his sixties, Signor Provenzano has been on the run for a quarter of a century. No recent photographs of him are known to exist. "The era of Riina is over. A new Mafia era has begun," Signor Lo Forte said.

"The Mafia is reorganising its structure, modifying its strategy and seeking new external points of reference," *La Repubblica* said. It said the Mafia had succeeded in subverting the *pentito* programme, and in some cases "may have used the *pentiti* for its own ends from the very beginning".

Police agreed that one of the key *pentiti*, Balduccio Di Maggio, had "probably never ceased to be part of the Mafia". He was arrested last week on charges of ordering a Mafia killing.

Last month, when 24 mafiosi, including Brusca, were sentenced for the Falcone murder, prosecutors in Palermo said they no longer believed that Brusca was genuinely co-operating with the authorities and accused him of passing them "disinformation".

Tommaso Buscetta, the first *pentito*, now in hiding in the United States, said in an interview with *La Repubblica* that Italy was "letting victory slip from its grasp".

But Giovanni Tinebra, the prosecutor in Caltanissetta, the site of the high-security court for Mafia trials, said he did not believe there was a "Cosa Nostra Mark Two".

"The Mafia has always existed, and is constantly adapting," he said. "It is an occult organisation which keeps the same methods and objectives. When we arrest one of its leaders, there are always others to take their place."

6 An era in the Mafia is over and a new era has begun

Doors to Milan's treasures reopen

BY RICHARD OWEN

ONE of Europe's oldest libraries, whose treasures include a Leonardo Codex and a 5th-century copy of the *Iliad*, reopens in Milan today after a £20 million restoration lasting seven years.

The Ambrosian Library was founded in 1609, seven years after Sir Thomas Bodley opened the Bodleian Library in Oxford. It was the brainchild of Cardinal Federico Borromeo, and became the first public library in Italy. Its initial 30,000 volumes grew to 400,000 printed books, 15,000 manuscripts and 60,000 letters and documents. "It is a DNA of our history," said *La Stampa* yesterday. The library is named after the patron saint of Milan, St Ambrose.

The library reflected the cardinal's often eclectic tastes. It guaranteed users ink, pens and paper, and in cold weather readers were brought warm slippers. It still possesses Petrarch's own annotated parchment copy of Virgil poems, the illustrated *Iliad*, brought from Alexandria and known as the *Ilias Pieta*, and a manual on the art of painting, *De Prospettiva Pingendi*, by Piero della Francesca. The manuscript collection includes letters from Boccaccio, the author of the *Decameron*, Savonarola, Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Goethe and Stendhal.

Perhaps the oddest exhibit is a lock of Lucrezia Borgia's hair in a crystal casket. Byron wrote ecstatically to John Murray when he saw it in 1816 that the hair was "blonder than you can imagine", and is said to have "stole" strand "as a keepsake". The restored and expanded Pinacoteca, or art collection,



Leonardo: detail from self-portrait

on the first floor has a cartoon or preparatory drawing by Raphael for his *School of Athens* in the Vatican, a still life by Caravaggio entitled *The Fruit Basket* and Titian's *Adoration of the Magi*. But the Ambrosian's greatest treasure is Leonardo Da Vinci's *Atlantic Codex*, which consists of 400 pages, many of them covered in Leonardo's scientific and technical drawings. Leonardo lived and worked in Milan, and even designed war machines for the Dukes of Milan, the Sforzas.

The reading room has been computerised, but the heart of the collection remains its books and paintings. A stone tablet that is still preserved in the library entrance warns anyone thinking of stealing a volume that the penalty is no mere fine, but "instant excommunication".



Petals are thrown in front of the Pope on the urn holding St Thérèse of Lisieux's remains

Pope bestows rare honour on woman

BY RICHARD OWEN

ST PETER'S SQUARE was packed with 100,000 people yesterday to hear the Pope declare St Thérèse of Lisieux, the Carmelite nun who inspired Mother Teresa, of Calcutta, a Doctor of the Church, only the third woman in the history of Roman Catholicism to be given the honour.

The title originated in the Middle Ages and was accorded to those religious figures held to have combined saintliness with "outstanding merit" as teachers or writers. The first four Doctors were St Ambrose, St Jerome, St Gregory and St Augustine. In 1970 Pope Paul VI broke with tradition, adding two females: St Catherine of Siena, the 14th-century Dominican, and St Teresa of Ávila, the 16th-century Spanish Carmelite nun.

The Pope yesterday said that St Thérèse of Lisieux, who died 100 years ago at the age of 24, also deserved the title despite her youth. "Her spiritual itinerary shows such maturity, and the intuitions expressed in her writings were so vast and so profound, that they merit a place among the great spiritual masters," the pontiff said. He said St Thérèse "remains young despite the years that pass", and offered an "excellent model" for others to follow.

Born at Alençon to a pious watchmaker's family in 1873, St Thérèse became a Carmelite nun at 15 after travelling to Rome to appeal personally to Pope Leo XIII to be allowed to

enter the local convent so young. The fame of St Thérèse, who died of tuberculosis, rests on her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, and miraculous cures attributed to her intercession. She was canonised in 1925, and became a patron of France in 1947.

For yesterday's ceremony, her remains were brought to St Peter's from France in a golden urn, which was showered with red and white rose petals, recalling her nickname "Little Flower", and her vow that after her death she would "let fall a shower of roses", thought to mean miracles.



St Thérèse: "Little Flower"

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Blair warned of EMU isolation

TONY BLAIR's effort to impose a British stamp on the shape of the European Union is likely to be seriously undermined if the Government announces that it has no plans to join economic and monetary union for at least five years, EU officials said yesterday.

While the European Commission and continental governments with-held formal comment on the sudden shift by London over its intentions on EMU membership, there was clear disappointment over the prospect of Britain locking itself outside the project that drives over all other EU business and will do so well into the next century.

With the birth of the euro deemed more certain than ever, EU governments had been encouraged by the signals from the Government that it was looking favourably on eventual British membership. With 11 states now likely to enter the currency, the inclusion of sterling would ensure the euro's status as a global force, they believe. Few thought Britain would sign up for the launch in January 1999, but German, French and other ministers have voiced satisfaction this month over the signs that London could be paving the way for entry at the launch of

Labour's preferred image as a model of European virtue is tarnished, reports Charles Bremner

euro coins and notes in 2002. Despite Mr Blair's enthusiasm for Europe, a firm decision to stay out would inevitably keep Britain on the sidelines, officials said.

Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the Commission, said: "If you give the impression that you are not going to be there for quite a long time — four or five years — there is no doubt that your role in Europe is diminished. You cannot be a leader in Europe if you regard yourself as a semi-detached member."

Less diplomatically, continental diplomats said a hard British rejection was likely to heighten the irritation that the Government was already stirring in France, Germany and elsewhere with its claim to be setting the pace for the EU. After a

honeymoon in which the EU welcomed the euro-friendly stance of the Labour Government, Mr Blair and his team have been ruffling continental feathers with their claims to be providing a model that the rest of the EU wants to follow.

"They never stop lecturing us," a French official said last week after Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, made his latest appearance at an EU council proclaiming Britain's leadership. Jean-Claude Juncker, the Luxembourg Prime Minister, who hands over the six-month EU presidency to Mr Blair in January, took a direct swipe at Britain last week, saying he would never "pretend to call myself leader of Europe".

The substance of the conflict pits the Government's campaign for flexible labour markets against the continental effort to preserve the "European social model" with its costly regulations and high taxes. The scene for Mr Blair's first clash with his colleagues is being set for the summit next month in Luxembourg on bringing down the EU's crushing level of unemployment, now at 13 million.

Leading article, page 21
Market fitters, page 48



Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French far-right leader, after speaking to supporters in Nice where he is to stand in elections next year

Napoleons of euro plan to dwarf Britain

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

To Germans the most shocking event of the past week was not Helmut Kohl admitting to mortality. His announcement to television viewers (rather than Christian Democrat conference delegates) that he favoured the wily politician Wolfgang Schäuble as a future Chancellor (though not yet, not yet) registered only a brief flicker of interest. Even in Bavaria, it triggered a predictable yet tasteless discussion about whether it was possible to lead Germany from a wheelchair.

No, the real shock came in the photographs of Gerhard Schröder visiting Downing Street. Herr Schröder, the bull-necked Social Democratic Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, comes over as a big man, but the cameras did not lie when they showed him to be much shorter than Tony Blair.

Süddeutsche Zeitung discovered another intimate detail: Oskar Lafontaine, the other Social Democratic contender to replace the Chancellor, is a Napoleon. 5ft 11in. How would he look when visiting Mr Blair? Would he be like Alan Ladd stretching to kiss his leading ladies, have to stand on a box?

For 15 years of Kohl government, Germany has been ruled by the ideology of Big-ism. Nobody quite matches the bulk of the Chancellor, but his Cabinet is crowded with men as tall as wardrobes: the Defence, the Innovation, the Health Ministers could all play American football. Only Labour Minister Norbert Blum has problems looking his boss in the eyes.

Summits with Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton and Jacques Chirac are peppered with Big-ist jokes about girth and appetite.

Today's informal Chequers meeting between Mr Blair and the Chancellor takes body politics into a new dimension. The talk is about Big Europe and Small Europe and it seems that this will be the Leitmotif for the rest of Mr Blair's term in office. Naturally, Herr Kohl wants to know more about Mr Blair's plans for the British stint in the European presidency.

Organising the calendar for the first six months of next year is crucial for his bid to be re-elected in the general election in late September. On March 1, Herr Schröder has to win regional elections in Lower Saxony with a thumping majority if he is to get a chance to run against Herr Kohl. The day after, the Social Democrats meet to choose their con-

tender: either Herr Lafontaine or Herr Schröder. Decisions on the EMU "ins" and "outs" come shortly afterwards. At least part of the European choreography is in Mr Blair's hands, and the Chancellor needs to know the details.

But while the European presidency may give the Labour Government the illusion that it is in the European inner circle, the march of events is indicating otherwise. The meeting last week of French and German finance ministers, accompanied by their central bank governors, showed the drift. There was talk of a new euro council, managed by the French and the Germans but embracing all euro participants. They would meet ahead of the regular European Union finance ministers' sessions and coordinate approaches to tax, public spending and the labour market. The sessions would be, in that most sinister of political terms, "informal".

Plainly, these sessions will set the agenda of the political economy. It is equally obvious Britain will be excluded until it signs up for the euro.

This is the reality of monetary union, especially now that it seems to be going for broad club membership. Deals will be hatched in the club room. The non-players and no-hopers will wait for the debriefing. "The City will pull Britain into the European monetary union," Herr Kohl tells visitors. But politicians who aspire to a European leadership role are beginning to realise that non-participation pushes them, as well as the finances, to the margins.

Mr Blair, under pressure to announce an EMU line by December, will be wanting to know more from the Chancellor about the newly established euro club. Eurocrats have been warning for years that monetary union will divide the continent rather than unite it. The first cracks are now becoming visible. Mr Blair can still play body politics with Herr Kohl, but for how long?

Mugabe wants aid to seize white land

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE



Mugabe will raise land issue with Blair

PRESIDENT MUGABE today flies to Britain where he plans to present Tony Blair with demands that Britain compensate white farmers for 13 million acres of their land which the Zimbabwe Government says it intends to seize.

Mr Mugabe spent last week touring rural Zimbabwe where he repeated a refrain that the Government had no moral obligation to pay white farmers for land that their forebears occupied a century ago in settling Rhodesia.

"If the British Government wants us to compensate its children, it must give us the money, or it does the compensation itself," he said.


Mr Mugabe told audiences at political rallies that he would be raising the land issue with the Prime Minister at the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh later this week. He indicated that demands would include the compensation of white farmers as well as assistance for the cost of resettling black peasants.

The Zimbabweans are hoping that in one of Labour's first encounters with Africa since coming to power, Mr Blair will be more amenable to their demands than the Tories were. But Mr Mugabe's tone during the week is unlikely to encourage support. He promised that "we are going to take the land and we are not going to pay a cent to any soul".

The President also promised to change constitutional protections in the Bill of Rights if it interfered with his "revolutionary land acquisition programme". Without support

from Britain, he declared, Zimbabwe would do it alone. Officials of the ruling Zanu (PF) party had identified 1.776 white-owned farms covering 12.6 million acres which the Zimbabwean Government intended to confiscate for peasant resettlement, as well as for guerrilla war veterans and black commercial farmers.

There is no figure currently available for the value of the land under threat, although farm industry sources say it is vast. It is almost half the area now owned by the 4,500-strong community of white farmers who produce 85 per cent of Zimbabwe's formally marketed agricultural output, the cornerstone of the economy. Mr Mugabe has complicated the issue with a qualification that although the Government will refuse to pay for land, it is willing to compensate farmers who have made improvements to land.



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CIA spy sues after refusal to go out in the cold

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A story worthy of *From Russia With Love*, a decorated covert CIA agent is suing the intelligence agency, claiming he is being forced out over false allegations of an affair with a Russian spy.

The agent, known as "G.A." as his name is classified, claims in papers filed in the US district court in Washington that the allegation of his extramarital affair, contained in an FBI intelligence report, was "a fiction resulting from a disinformation campaign conducted by an opposition intelligence source".

Most damaging is his further allegation that the agency has retaliated for views he expressed after the 1994 arrest of Aldrich Ames, the worst mole in American intelligence. He told CIA chiefs that the agency was riddled with other double agents.

Shortly after the Ames arrest, the court papers say that he said the CIA "had been penetrated by as yet undetected high-level moles in addition to the recently arrested Aldrich Ames". He believed that Ames, who sent at least ten allied agents to their deaths and jeopardised more than 100 covert operations in Europe over nearly a decade of spying for the KGB, had been deliberately exposed by the Kremlin in an attempt to "divert attention from another, more valued mole".

While the CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia, has declined any comment on the case, the papers describe G.A. as a high-ranking field officer with extensive experience in trouble spots around the world. In the course of almost 14 years with the clandestine Directorate of Operations, he received the Intelligence Com-

mendation medal, two CIA meritorious unit awards, six exceptional performance awards, various letters of commendation and consistent "outstanding" appraisals of his performance.

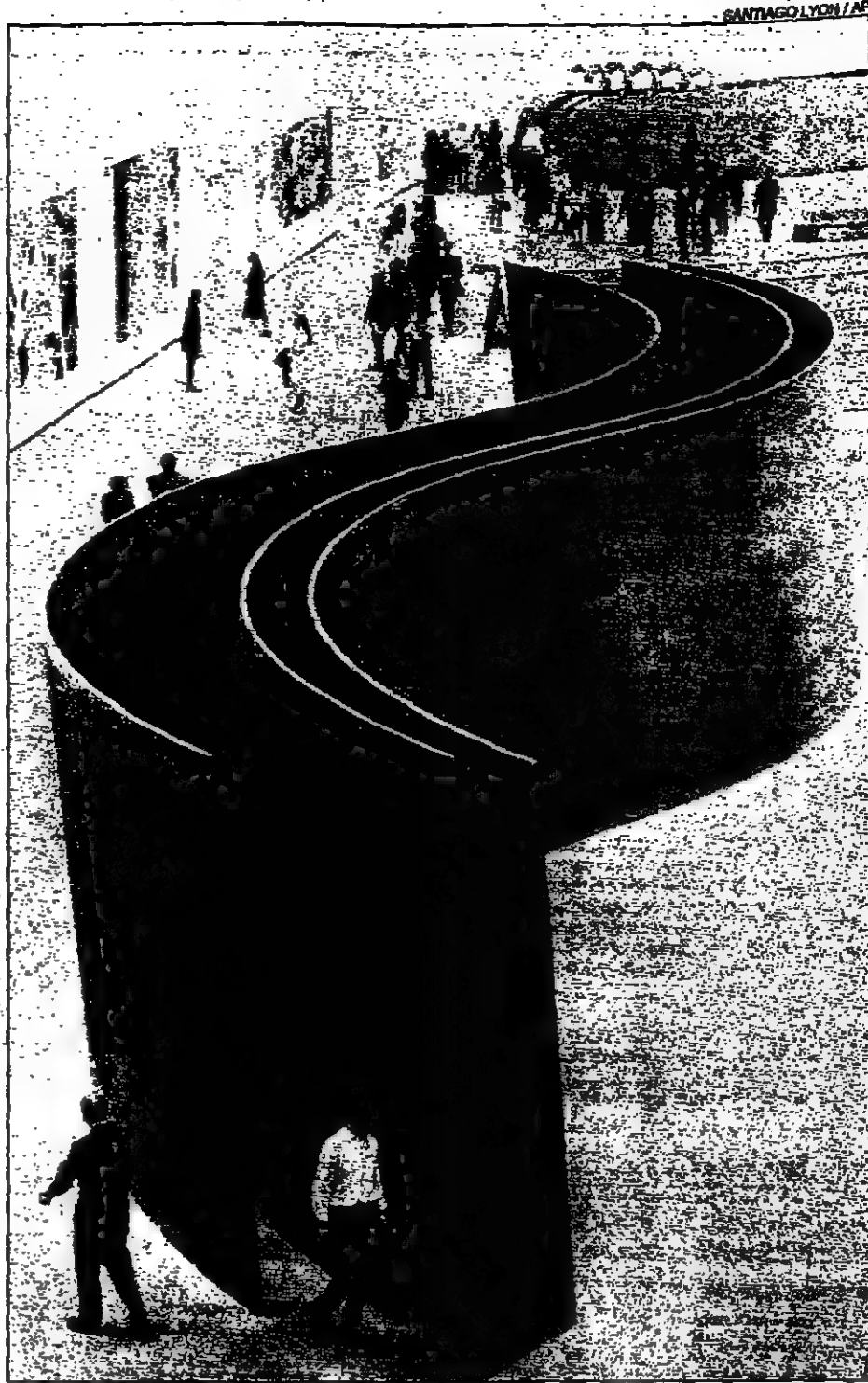
He joined the agency in 1983, served at two unnamed overseas stations and, from 1991 to 1993, carried out undercover operations in Moscow before returning to America to run sensitive covert actions in Russia until two years ago.

It was then that he was confronted with the allegation about a woman named as "Galina". He denied any close contact with the opposition spy but, after three unsuccessful polygraph tests, was removed from his job, barred from unescorted access to CIA facilities and placed on administrative leave without pay.

In February this year, his lawyer was told that G.A. was under investigation for failure to report sexual contact with a foreign national female and because he had failed the lie-detector tests.

The court documents said that he had reported earlier sexual liaisons outside his marriage which did not result in disciplinary action. He also claimed that on one occasion, a CIA station chief had "encouraged him to enter into a sexual relationship with a female... to gain her trust and confidence".

The lawsuit, which alleges violations of his rights, was filed after weeks of wrangling between G.A., his lawyer and agency officials who had been trying to get him to remain on the CIA payroll. But a recommendation that he be "separated" from the agency is now being considered by George Tenet, the CIA Director.



Richard Serra's *The Snake* drew visitors at Bilbao's new Guggenheim Museum

Thousands queue for Bilbao's trail-blazing art museum

Bilbao: Thousands of curious visitors streamed into Spain's new Guggenheim Museum yesterday when it opened in the Basque city of Bilbao. The unconventional art museum, the site of a fatal shooting attack by Eta separatist guerrillas, was welcomed as a symbol of hope to a population weary from decades of industrial decline, soaring unemployment and violence.

King Juan Carlos officially inaugurated the fantastically shaped building, designed by architect Frank Gehry, under heavy security on Saturday, just days after police foiled an Eta plot to bomb the ceremony. As dignitaries arrived at the gallery, about 500 Basque separatists demonstrated outside against the King and the museum they call a symbol of American imperialism.

But the King and Queen Sophia were enchanted by the galleries, which feature sweeping curves of glass, limestone and shimmering titanium metal.

Bilbao residents, who have watched the project take shape for six years at a cost of \$160 million (£99 million), queued for four hours for the flam opening.

Most visitors clambered happily through the Guggenheim's twisting galleries, hearing the wind whistle as they walked through American artist Richard Serra's *The Snake* sculpture and viewed masterpieces by Picasso, Miro, Chagall and Matisse. (Reuters)

Son of tycoon claims abuse by mother

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

IN A filial dust-up worthy of a potboiler paperback, a millionaire son hassled his even richer mother or control of the family estate, worth \$13 million (£8 million), awarded to her by the recently deceased father.

William Koepfel, 38, is also claiming in court that his mother Roberta, 60, abused him as a child, locking him in "dog cages" for years and sedating him "up to his eyeballs".

The dispute involves one of New York's most prominent families and is being followed by the entire city. It arose from the will of a property tycoon, Robert Koepfel, who died last October. In it, he assigned his estate - comprising a property empire in New York and Florida, as well as an assortment of yachts and private planes - to his son, William.

However, there was a catch: the will stated that his widow, Roberta, should hold the estate in trust for William until her death. Only then, it stipulates clearly can he inherit the fortune.

William, however, cannot wait. Taunted by his mother's lawyer, who apparently told him that she would live for another "10 years", he rushed last week to the Surrogate's Court in Lower Manhattan, claiming that Mrs Koepfel was mismanaging the family estate. He claimed also that she was attempting to make him and his wife homeless.

In court documents he says: "When I was a child, she locked me inside dog cages and sedated me with medication so she would not have to bother with me." His wife, Jean, has added fuel to the family fire by telling the *New York Post* that this "child abuse" occurred when he was a toddler.

Mrs Koepfel, however, has dismissed these allegations as "pathetic".

She said: "As his mother, I feel sorry for him. He's really a lost soul in the world. He's more pathetic than anything else. This dog cage business is so ludicrous that it can only point to the fact that his behaviour is bizarre."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Kidneys sought from executed Chinese

Hong Kong: Doctors here are attempting to obtain kidneys from executed mainland criminals to help to meet the enormous demand for transplant organs (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

Yesterday's *Sunday Hong Kong Standard* said that about 1,000 people in the former British colony were waiting for kidney transplants. Only about 35 such operations are carried out each year and one reason for the shortage of organs is that most Chinese regard it as a taboo for a body to be buried incomplete. According to the US-based Human Rights Watch/Asia, "an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 organs (mainly kidneys and corneas) from prisoners each year are used [in transplants]". Because prisoners' hands are bound, their wills are written by security officials who are permitted to edit them.

Bonn hits back at Grass



Bonn: Günter Grass, left, the German author, was accused by the Government of "scraping the barrel intellectually" and of "having no sense of reality" when he said he was "ashamed" of his country in an attack on its policy towards Turkey and Turkish immigrants. Speaking as he awarded a German bookellers' prize to Yasar Kemal, the Turkish Kurd author, he said Germany was only interested in economics and refused to give asylum to persecuted Kurds. (AFP)

Kenya police beat protesters

Nyahururu, Kenya: Police fired bullets into the air, hurled tear-gas canisters and beat Kenyans with clubs in another violent crackdown on a pro-democracy rally. Police, who have broken up all but one of recent anti-government protests, killed four demonstrators in this opposition stronghold 90 miles northwest of Nairobi in July. Yesterday 5,000 demonstrators ignored orders to disperse. Within minutes, police shot a dozen tear-gas canisters into the crowd assembled on an open field. (AP)

Kidnapped Briton 'safe'

A British aid worker, abducted by tribesmen in Yemen, has apparently sent a letter to diplomats saying he is safe and well (Our Foreign Staff writes). The letter has eased concerns for the safety of the man, named by the British Embassy in Sana'a as Henry Thompson, but the Foreign Office said it was continuing to press the Yemeni authorities to secure his release. Troops were reported to be closing in on the kidnappers' stronghold.

Ballot challenge to Milosevic

Slobodan Milosevic, the President of the Yugoslav Federation, faced a new challenge as Milo Djukanovic predicted victory in a vote for the presidency of Montenegro (Tom Walker writes). Analysts fear a defeat for Momir Bulatovic, a Milosevic loyalist, could spark violence. In a first round of voting this month the two were 2,000 votes apart. The electoral commission has since added 8,000 voters, many of them Djukanovic supporters.

Israeli rape claim apology

Cairo: Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said Israel had officially apologised over the harassment of the Egyptian Ambassador. "We have taken notice but such pettiness should not occur again," he said. Israeli officials have undertaken a damage-limitation exercise to preserve relations after the dismissal of claims by an Israeli belly dancer that Muhammad Bassiouny, the ambassador, tried to rape her. (AFP)

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Why I chose not to have an abortion

Johanna Wood was 40, had four children already – and certainly did not want to be pregnant again

Last year, at the age of 40, I, too, was in the unbelievable position of missing my period. I was married to a man approaching his sixties, and my four existing children were aged nine, five, four and nine months. I had just returned to work as a general practitioner after six years at home looking after the children. I had hoped to be done with babies for ever, and here I was, expecting a fifth.

I cannot honestly say that this was an unwanted baby because I love children and my own especially, but it was very much an unwanted pregnancy. I had not had easy pregnancies or births, and my last confinement had been so absolutely dreadful that I had still not physically or emotionally recovered from it. Indeed, I had got "caught" the one and only time we had made love since that traumatic birth, while we were arguing over which one of us should be sterilised.

Starting through floods of tears at the thin blue line on the pregnancy test, I felt I just could not have another pregnancy. I rang my GP in desperate haste for an appointment. If only I could be rid of this nightmare immediately. Indeed, I believe that if I had had access to an abortion that first day, when I was barely two weeks pregnant, I might have done so. I so much wanted to pretend that this was just a missed period, just a tiny bunch of cells, just a nothing, just a blue line on a bit of blotting paper. Significantly I hid my positive result in a cupboard upstairs, because I decided that was all I was ever going to have of this baby. My GP was superbly professional and kind. I had every medical reason not to proceed with this pregnancy. He would help me with whatever I wanted. But I was already feeling that I was damned if I did and damned if I didn't. How could I do this to a child made of love? This was my children's brother or sister. Why should this one get the short straw?

Three very significant events helped me to make my decision. First, my husband was not in favour of an abortion, even though he was as shocked as I was. At the time, I felt he was being heartless, but having one's partner in favour of life and not death is tremendously important. Secondly, this was the week when the papers were reporting the tragedy of a family whose two children had been washed out to sea on a family day out. Mandy Allwood's pregnancy was also in the news. These two terrible dilemmas for other families made me realise that mine was a dilemma of choice – of choosing a good thing – and not one of helplessness. Finally, the first person I spoke to, whose advice I valued, immediately told me that I would cope. I am eternally grateful to her for such good sense.

After her, everyone else said I would be crazy, selfish even, to go ahead and should definitely have an abortion. And selfishness should be discussed here, because all the reasons I did not want to have a baby were selfish. My figure, my health, my career, my reputation, my future. Me, me, me.

The first 10 weeks of my pregnancy were very difficult for me, because with each week the option of an abortion became less and less. At my "advanced" age of 40, I surprised myself by hiding the pregnancy just like a teenager. I wore baggy jumpers and bought no maternity clothes. When it would be hidden no longer and I abandoned the pretence, I was pleasantly surprised to hear one of my girlfriends give a little shriek when she saw this huge bump that seemed to have materialised from nowhere.

I did not have any antenatal screening tests, because if you accept the baby then you accept it warts and all, but I was well aware of my risk of having a Down's syndrome child. Actually, I had an early scan at the Harris Birthright Trust which assessed my risk as 1-in-250, which I found reassuring. I was plunged into extra expense immediately because I was so exhausted that I needed help with the other children after school. We had to change the car. We would probably have to move house.

My actual confinement was even worse than I had anticipated. The baby was a transverse lie and I was booked to have a Caesarean after four normal deliveries. On the appointed day, I was wheeled into the operating theatre expecting a straightforward delivery, but had an undiagnosed placenta praevia, which was cut out, and jolly nearly bled to death. I needed a six-unit transfusion and my recovery was slow and difficult. I had to have paid help every day for a month. It was very hard on me.

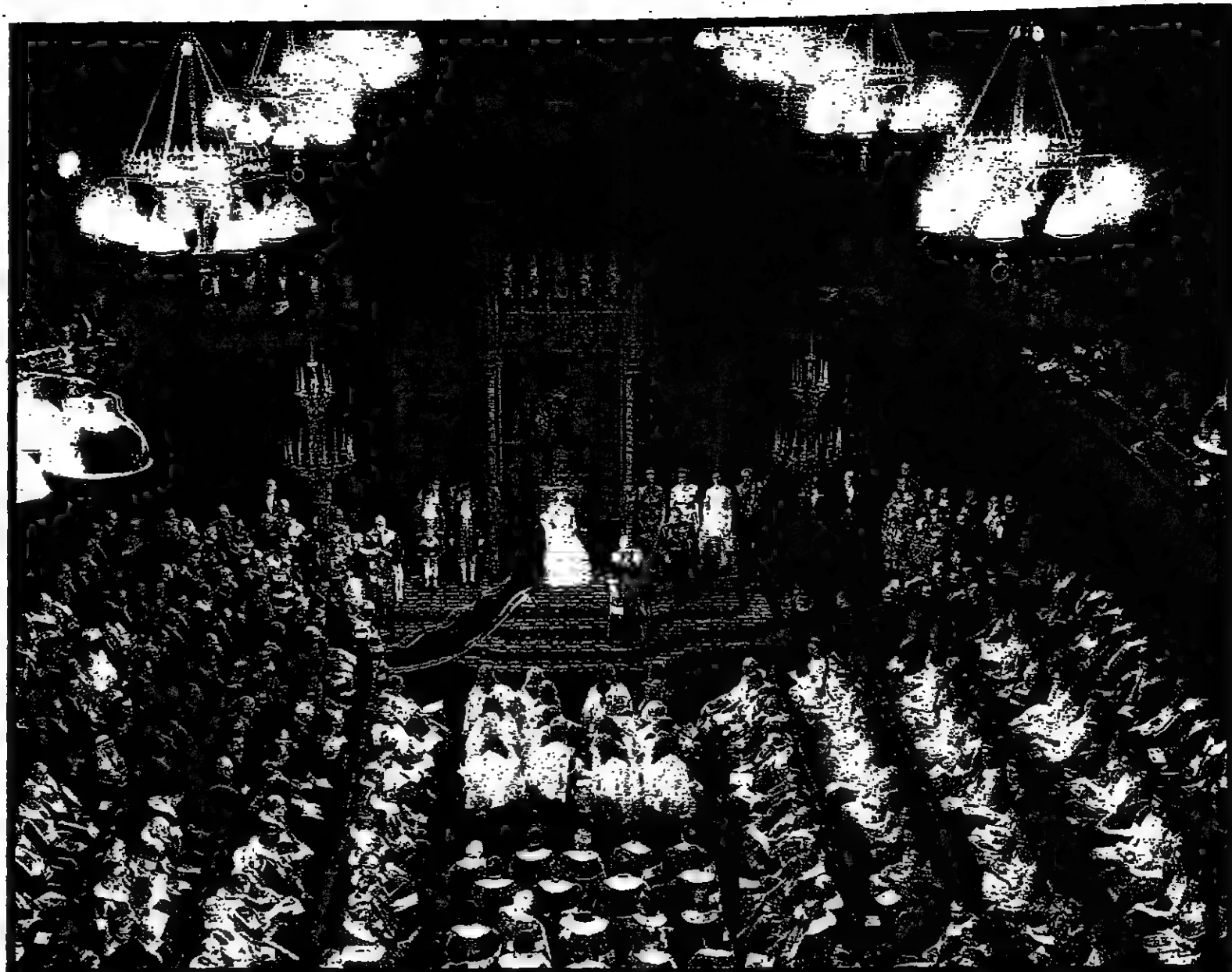
My surprise daughter is now six months old. Just like every other baby she is a delight – not just to me, but to her brothers and sisters and to her old Dad. She did absolutely nothing to merit the termination of her little life. She was not just a late period, or a hiccup in my quest for personal fulfilment. The thin blue line that announced her presence was one that we should not cross.

I am a married woman, middle-class, well educated and also profess a faith in God. That I should have been so sorely tempted is a fact of which I am ashamed. My story needs telling too. It is a story that other women should hear. You can cope. You can live with your conscience. You may even have a daughter who will put back something of your sacrifice into your old age.

Why I chose to have an abortion



Debbie Beckerman: last Monday's Times



The Queen at the opening of Parliament: So strong is Upper House tradition that Big Ben's chime is held back until the royal foot crosses the threshold

Lords need a shepherd

New life peers have to face the intricacies of the Upper Chamber. Eve-Ann Prentice reports

The new Labour peer from, perplexed as to what he might have done wrong on his second day in the House of Lords. The usher, a former Regimental Sergeant-Major clad in coat-tails and stiff white shirt, had told the peer there was a telephone message for him. The former Labour MP had begun to follow when the usher turned, fixed him with a stare and told him: "Stay there... my Lord."

The edict was delivered with a staid politeness, underlain with the cool command of someone training a young dog to sit.

"I stood there rigid," says Lord Whaddon, "wondering what misdemeanour I had committed and how on earth I was supposed to get the message." This first lesson in the difference between the rough and tumble of life in the Commons and the immutable traditions of the Lords ended

with the usher instructing him: "My Lord, you stay where you are, I will bring the message to you."

With the Upper House now planning to simplify its introduction ceremony to enable 57 new peers to take their seats by Christmas, the ushers – usually former RSMs or similar rank – are likely to have their resources stretched, initiating the newcomers into the intricacies of life amid the red carpet and upholstery. So what can these new barons and baronesses expect?

Unlike the Commons, which has Erskine May as its procedural bible, there are no written rules to guide the Upper Chamber. At least the new peers now waiting to take their seats may be spared having to change their names, as was the trend 20 years ago. Lord Whaddon, who is my father, spent the first 51 years of his life as Derek Page, six of them as Labour MP for King's Lynn in Norfolk. Garter King of Arms, the official in charge of sorting out new peers' titles and coats of arms, soon made it clear that Lord Page might not be suitable – after all, a page is a servant.

Even Big Ben has to watch its timing when it comes to Upper House tradition. The Queen always sets her foot across the threshold of the Palace of Westminster at precisely the first stroke of 11am during the Opening of Parliament, and in this she has never faltered.

"She does not hesitate or hang around, nor does she rush up at the last second to make sure she steps forward at the correct moment," says Lord Whaddon. "Richard

Dimbleby told me that she is always bang on the dot because Big Ben is held back as necessary and allowed to strike only when her foot crosses the threshold."

Royal sensibilities also came into play when Lord Whaddon, who was created a life peer in James Callaghan's 1978 list, chose his coat of arms. He wanted a Lone Star of Texas, since he is an honorary citizen of that state, a harp and a red rose of Lancashire in tribute to his birthplace. "You may have two red roses," Garter told him: "A single red rose is the prerogative of Her Majesty."

Although there are plans to simplify the introduction ceremony for the new peers waiting to take their seats on the red leather benches in the Upper Chamber, the newcomers might also like to know in advance that even walking in procession can have its pitfalls. New peers, resplendent in ermine – which they can either buy or borrow – process round the chamber, read out of allegiance and are led to their seats, where they sit, stand up, doff their hats and sit down again three times before processing again to shake the hand of the Lord Chancellor.

"The ushers are very much in charge during the ceremony, and everything must be done precisely right," says Lord Whaddon, who took his title from the Cambridgeshire village where he has lived since 1961. "It was impressive on me that I had to keep a precise distance between myself and the man in front. It then became apparent that I was gaining on him, so I tried missing a step. Don't pause, my Lord... take shorter steps." I was told in no uncertain manner.

If the traditions in which the Lords is steeped sound like hell for any day-to-day workings can be heaven compared with the Commons. "The Lords is better behaved," says Lord Whaddon. "You don't have a constituency, so the workload is far less and the whips can't bring the same pressure to bear. And because there are no written rules, this can be most interesting: it seems to work better than the Commons because you are not constantly looking for loopholes."

"Despite what people may think about the image of peers dining on the benches, the standard of debate is superior. There are so many experts, and the speeches carry the weight of informed authority. But much of the work goes on in committee and, because the speakers in the chamber are such experts, you tend to get lighter attendances in the chamber itself because only other experts in a given field can understand them."

There is also a considerable feeling of history. To sit down, as I did, for coffee one day and find yourself sitting next to Lord Effingham and then realise he is a direct descendant of the commander of the British fleet at the Armada is amazing. That said, there is a certain chumminess between the hereditary peers that is not evident with the life peers. But this is hardly surprising since their families know one another from yonks back."

There is also a certain genteel naivety among some of the hereditary peers. At the time of the Cynthia Payne sex-for-luncheon vouchers scandal, a marquess who did not fully understand what Madame Cyn had been up to was told by a life peer that you received wine, a woman and lunch in exchange for the vouchers. "Wine can't have been much good," the marquess noted.

Lord Whaddon was on a business trip to Warsaw at the height of the Cold War when his peerage was announced in *The Times* and spotted by a Polish company director who was returning from a visit to London. "So the first time I was called by my new title was when the Polish Government called me and invited me to meet the Chairman of the Council of State. The red carpet was rolled out for me and I was addressed as 'My Lord'. No one has come up to scratch in this way since."

Should my father ever get above himself, though, I am always swift to point out that he is the son of a lorry driver, while I must be far superior, as I am the daughter of a peer.

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My wine, women and wrongs

After a life of drink, women and football, George Best is now importing wine from Italy that will bear his name. Interview by Bill Frost

George Best has a headache, not a blinding pain behind the eyes, just a dull throb that was there when he woke up, mid-morning. Even the subdued lights of the Italian restaurant seem to hurt his eyes.

"No, it's not a hangover," he insists. "I was off the wine last night, that's why I've got the headache today." He eyes a bottle chilling in the ice bucket by our table and moments later the solicitous waiter has filled his glass.

Best, perhaps the most mercurial and exciting performer the English game has ever produced, savours the bouquet appreciatively, but this is business, not pleasure. The delicate champagne flute in his hand seems strangely at odds with the red and black footballer's shell suit, circa 1969, and the chunky gold bracelet.

His latest venture sees English football's first *enfant terrible* — dried out, twice and jailed once for drink-driving — cast in the role of entrepreneur.

With two business partners, Best is importing fine wines from Italy that will bear his name and picture on the label.

He sees the dark humour in a project that reminds the public again of his decline and fall, but says that alcohol is now his servant, not his master. "I drink only white wine now, never spirits... well, perhaps the occasional brandy."

Carlo Casaldi, fellow entrepreneur and owner of the Fulham restaurant where Best feels most at home, claims his friend has a fine and discriminating palate. "He knows that many people think he is just a drinker, but he knows well what he is tasting, he is not just a man who opens his mouth and swallows."

"Next month we will take him to the vineyards and show him how the wine is produced and introduce him to the winemakers. George is only too happy to come."

More bottles arrive at the table for tasting and Best's headache has lifted. He even manages a thin smile when someone suggests that his partners have put "Dracula in charge of the blood bank".

The waiter at Casa Carlo recommends a light sparkling wine from the Veneto region... ideal at breakfast

time". After a toast to the vineyard, the conversation turns to Best's career — six magical seasons at Manchester United, 115 goals in 290 league, FA Cup and European Cup games and an impish virtuosity that matched imagination with courage.

"My greatest game was probably the hat-trick for Manchester United against Benfica in the quarter-finals of the European Cup in 1968. Sir Matt Busby said we should keep it tight for the first 15 minutes and see how things went. But I scored twice in the first 12 minutes."

"He said afterwards: 'You obviously weren't listening'. The next day all the Portuguese papers had the headline 'El Beate' — that was me and that's when everything took off."

The rollercoaster ride that followed was to take Best, now 51, from the pinnacle of sporting achievement to the depths of drink-fuelled despair. No one, with the exception of his manager at United, the late Sir Matt Busby, was ready to take charge of

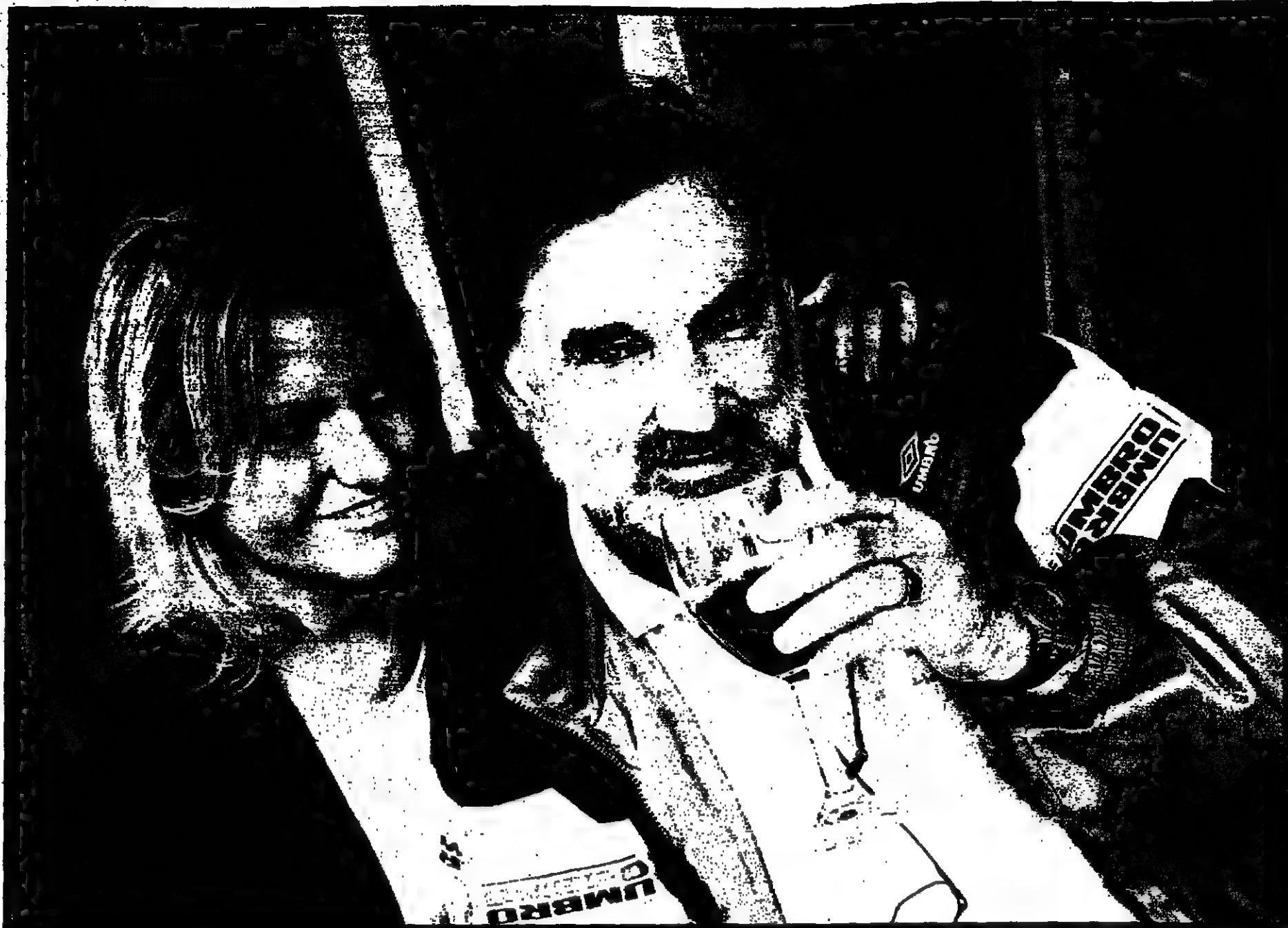
Best off the pitch. "As long as I kept delivering the goods, doing the business, they let me get on with it. Even Sir Matt could not control me."

"It was spirits in those days — I was a hairy-arsed footballer from Belfast and wine was for poshers. So every night it was the same routine: out on the town and stay partying until all the others had gone."

"Just as I wanted to outdo everyone when I played, I had to outdo everyone when we were on the town — always the last to go home." Despite evidence of dissipation, his star status and spending power continued to attract women. "They say I slept with seven Miss Worlds, but it was only three. I was always photographed with a blonde on my arm."

On the cusp of greatness and decline, Best was surprised in his suite at the Ritz — "Or was it the Savoy?" — by a porter, who found the young player in bed with the then Miss Universe beneath a counterpane of £20,000 in new notes. Best recalls: "The guy said: 'Well, George, where did it all go wrong? I can't remember my reply, but perhaps he saw something I didn't.'"

By the time he was 25, Best believed that the team he loved



George Best with his wife, Alex, at the Casa Carlo restaurant in Chelsea. Some have suggested that letting him import wine is like putting "Dracula in charge of the blood bank"

was in decline. Always highly strung, he began to drink more heavily than ever, seeking the excitement he once found in football from a bottle. As soon as he got up in the morning — and that was never early — there was always that thirst to be slaked. Best began to miss training but "people just continued to turn a blind eye".

Arrest for drink-driving and assaulting a police officer in 1984 was "the lowest point in my life". However, within two weeks of his release from Ford Open Prison, Best was back on the bottle.

A drunken appearance on Terry Wogan's chat show in 1990 deepened a growing sense of shame and despair. Four hours in the Green Room left Best very much the worse for wear. "Before then no one had really seen me drunk in public, but the Wogan show embarrassed not just me, but also my close friends and

family. I don't know why it happened. I just wanted to go on a bender and get drunk."

Antipasto arrives at the table as Best explains that, although still drinking, he now manages to keep his demons in check. "I was born with a great gift and sometimes with that comes a destructive streak."

He pushes the food around his plate — "I don't normally eat lunch" — and says he dreams of the game he still loves almost every night. "But playing at my age would be unrealistic, my left foot is almost useless now after all the knocks I took," he says sadly.

There is sadness, too, over his treatment at the hands of those who were not even born when he thrilled their fathers. "There is always somebody who wants to have a go, even here in Chelsea and Fulham, where I have lived for so long."

They try to pick a fight, shout a couple of mindless insults from a passing car or across a bar. I never respond,

although sometimes it is tempting. Even at the height of my fame, 50 per cent of the people who saw me wanted a fight — it's the downside of being a star player. It's less than that now, but I know there are those who'd like to see me in the gutter. They'll never have that satisfaction, though."

His mood lightens with the arrival at the restaurant of his wife, Alex, a 22-year-old former air hostess who hangs on to his every word. Inevitably, the

couple met at Tramp, still a second home for Best.

"None of my relationships with women really worked before Alex. Out of the blue she came into my life and I have never been happier. Over the years I was probably too trusting, with women and with male friends. But now I am more discriminating."

There are just a few close mates — Michael Parkinson, Denis Law, a handful of others. They are people I can trust, the people who look after

me if I go on a bender. Alex does try to keep me in check — we won't have any alcohol in the house. There are lots of lovely crystal glasses but nothing to fill them with."

The latest Mrs Best smiles indulgently. "He is a joy to live with and we are very happy, but of course there are arguments — the most recent was about an overdone baked potato. He is great, but he sulks. Otherwise, there is nothing about him I would change."

Not even his continued

drinking? Alex does not respond, chewing a nail to cover her silence.

Best provides an answer of sorts. "I know there are days when I'll want to go off on a jag. Alex knows that, too. There are dark moods and demons, you just need to go off and get wrecked. The difference is that now I can keep the booze under control. I have Alex and a lot to look forward to — my eyes are on the future. I'm no longer caught in the past."

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There are fierce debates in the universities today about the traditional teaching of history. Related to that, I think, is the question of Fiction and History. The distinguished historian Lawrence Stone spoke of History as becoming an "endangered species". For many literary critics today, historical fiction is practically extinct.

Yet the feast of the past has nourished the work of the present for centuries. Homer is a history and Shakespeare made his histories. This century, this generation, even this decade has had its historical novels. And yet, somehow, the form is considered below the salt. Just as the Modernists seemed to degrade narrative, and storytelling was sent to the bottom of the class to become that which distinguished only popular novelists, so the historical novel has become thought of as a genre for which only the second-rate need apply.

Sometimes I think that the Modernist inheritance, especially

Labour of love that dare not speak its name

In its perhaps accidental effect of allowing very clever people to think that being merely very clever meant that they were artists, has done some damage to the state of the arts — but that is another subject for another time.

Last summer I reread Evelyn Waugh's *Sword of Honour*, and the fertility of the relationship between fiction and history struck me forcibly. You will remember that Guy Crouchback, from an ancient English Catholic family, is living in Italy when the Second World War breaks out. Immediately he tries to return to England to defend his country and fight, as he sees it, for good against evil.

Before he leaves Italy he goes into his local church to seek out an Englishman buried there several hundred years previously. "He was older than the church, older than anything in it except the

bones of St Dulcinea and a pre-Christian thunderbolt which lay concealed at the back of the altar... his name, just legible still, was Roger of Waybroke. Knight, an Englishman; his arms, five falcons." He had been killed in a local skirmish, at the moment of victory, on his way to the Second Crusade.

This is in the first few pages of Waugh's trilogy and it sets the work on its course. It calls up war and the duty of a warrior in a time when Christendom is threatened. It implies honour and sets the standard by which Guy will judge himself and by which we will mark his progress as the years of total war depress an ancient standard. It gives both to the work and to the reader a country's history — that of England. An England to be defended as it has been for so long. In a few paragraphs, Waugh uses history

leaving their club in blacked-out London and forced to walk. "They stumbled down the steps together, and set out into the baffling midnight void. Time might have gone back 2,000 years to the time when London was a stockaded cluster of huts down the river, and the streets through which they walked, empty sedge and swamp."



to set the tone and plant the meaning in what became a great work of literary art. Waugh's touch does not end there. For example, a little further on he describes a group of men

dead for half a century when Waugh wrote *Sword of Honour*. In Longman's *Companion to Victorian Fiction*, after eulogiums on Scott and Thackeray in particular but also on Dickens, Trollope, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy and finally R.L. Stevenson, notice was served: "By this later period [the end of the 19th century] the main impulse had shifted downmarket via Rider Haggard to the juvenile sector dominated by G.A. Henty, W.H.G. Kingston, and their numerous followers. Increasingly, historical romance (even Stevenson's) was beneath the notice of the adult reader."

So the door was shut. Broadly speaking that opinion has held. Dickens became Baroness Orczy; Thackeray became Meyer; Hardy became Catherine Cookson. Some years ago, when I con-

fessed to friends that I was writing a novel set in 1802 — *The Maid of Buttermere* — there were pitying looks and murmurs that to go back was somehow to surrender. How could our brilliant present be bypassed? What could historical novels do? One famous novelist said that he could not enjoy the smells of the past, therefore writing a novel in the past was impossible.

Yet 12 years later, when I wrote my second historical novel, *Credo*, set in the 7th century, a remarkable number of writers were also using our history. Beryl Bainbridge in *Every Man for Himself* on the sinking of the *Titanic*; Rose Tremain with *Restoration*; Pat Barker with *The Ghost Road*; parts of A.S. Byatt's *Possession* and Peter Ackroyd's *Hawksmoor*; Barry Unsworth's *Sacred Hunger*; and Julian Barnes's emblematically titled *The History of the World in Ten and a Half Chapters*. Why the resurgence? The answer takes us into next week's column.

Game and match to the set

The Brecht Estate is one of those bodies where relatives or other heirs of the actual creator of the works keep a close, not to say blinkered, eye on the material to see that the text stays just as it was when the late Herr Brecht, Mr Beckert, or whoever, first started being late. Apparently the permission to relocate the original Sichuan woman to a mythical South African city is unprecedented, and a nod of



thanks to the Estate is due for its readiness to relax a fraction, even though Bert B has been dead for only 41 years.

Celina Mhlophe and Janet Suzman (who also directs) adapted the text for the Market Theatre of Johannesburg and the company has brought the production to the West Yorkshire Playhouse for a week before taking it on a five-week tour of the country (Edinburgh, Cambridge, London, Manchester, Coventry). However, the *Sharkville* version runs out of creative steam at the same point as the original, just as the heroine's tribulations reach the halfway point, and with more than an hour to go.

Still, when attention wavers, there is Johan Engels's set to look at: an implacable wall of drip-stained doors, tilted windows and corrugated iron, reminiscent of any slum anywhere. Against this slab of grey the three ancestral gods, amusingly ill-acquainted with human subtleties, descend in order to find one good human being.



By remaining true to the echt Brecht in its adaptation of *The Good Woman of Shanghai*, Johannesburg's Market Theatre perpetuates its faults

This being Brecht's view of capitalist society, the three find difficulty doing this, but at last they come upon Sizakele (Shen-Te in the original), a fatuously self-heated prostitute who can't say no, starts a business but gives the stock and profits away, and represents, we are required to accept, the impossibility of

both doing and being good. So overnight she creates a male cousin who is hard-hearted, ruthless and successful. The new version is based on Brecht's Santa Monica rewrite, where hard drugs replace tobacco as the source of Cousin Sizakele's fortune, further indicating the play's totalitarian dualism, where

what is not entirely right is absolutely wrong.

Both roles are played by Mmabatho Mogomotsi, wispiness alternating with a convincingly sharp-looking cynicism, and OK until she starts to sing. I don't think the fault is the auditorium, but the company yells when required to express feeling.

How insufferably sexist the play is. A woman can only be strong by pretending to be a man and is constantly let down by her feckless love for a rotter. Irony? I think not. It is Brecht absorbing and adding to the assumptions of his time, and unpleasant to witness today.

Suzman's direction is lively, encouraging vividly credible quarrels in the small crowd scenes, and the company (until the singing) performs with credit. And, when the rhetoric and the rant and the soppy romantic reversals are too much, there is always the set to enjoy.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Young, gifted and browned off

A new play tackles the likely fate of the first Asian Premiership player

It is hard to imagine an Indian Ian Wright or a Pakistani Paul Ince taking the field in an FA Cup Premiership match. Brown-skinned players somehow don't break through as the new Beckhams, Giggses, Le Sauxs and Scholeses. But what if one did? How would he fare? This is the theme of *Ooh Ah Showab Khan*, a young people's play launched this week by the Arc Theatre Ensemble, a group famed for its theatre-in-education work. "It's a speculative, futuristic play," says Carole Pluckrose, the director. "Highly skilful Asian footballers are overlooked, and the first Asian Premier League player could be three, five, or 20 years away."

The 90-minute play, which will tour "until" next year's World Cup, is a cornerstone of the new "Kick It Out" anti-racism campaign which will focus in particular on Asian players and supporters. *Ooh Ah Showab Khan* follows *Kicking Out*, an unexpected hit commissioned by Leyton Orient Football Club for the 1994 "Let's Kick Racism Out of Football" campaign which highlighted the problems blacks and Asians encounter from racist coaches. "Kicking Out was the Mouse-trap of young people's theatre," says Clifford Oliver, Arc's writer in residence, referring to its impressive run of 600 performances.

Seen by as many as 100,000 teenagers, *Kicking Out* toured community clubs and youth groups. It was also staged at the House of Commons and the Police Federation conference, as well as at a dozen football clubs, from Newcastle United to Millwall. In short, it was a youth sensation. "Two

years on and the theatre in *Ooh Ah Showab Khan* is equally good and powerful," Oliver says.

An Urdu-speaking Pakistani, Showab Khan faces racist gibes across the board — from goalmouth to boardroom, boot room and stands. Team-mates nickname him "Gandhi" and directors refer to him as a "Paki". He gets abuse on the pitch which soon ends in a fracas. The FA becomes involved, then the press, and the British National Party. A female writer, close to the story, is almost fire-bombed. Khan communes with the ghost of an uncle, killed by skinheads in a racial attack.

Khan is "a trailblazer", Oliver says. "He's setting the scene for other Asian players, but he doesn't want to hang his identity on a peg whenever he steps into the game."

"He has a choice," says Tiran Aakel, who plays him and was also one of the stars of *Kicking Out*. "He can either stand up for himself or swallow it down."

The play is aimed at football and non-football kids, club presidents, managers, teachers and scouts. "The play is like medieval theatre," Pluckrose says. "It's not sterile. It's short, close-up, authentic, gripping."

It is addressing the unsaid. It is about not clipping people's wings before they can fly. Otherwise we can forget it, and accept there never being an Asian in the Premier League."

ALEX WJERATNE
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AFTER its recent staging of *War and Peace*, Jane Eyre (at the Young Vic) must seem like a mere bauble to Shared Experience. The company's veteran adapter and director Polly Teale has stripped Charlotte Brontë's romantic thriller to its melodramatic bones and fleshed it with Liz Ranken's expressionistic choreography and a young cast that trebles and quadruples up in parts as diverse as dogs and horses.

Shared Experience has a habit of cloning its heroines, and Jane is no exception. The first scene is of the roving ten-year-old Jane at play with her imaginative self. But, after snubbing her cruel foster-aunt, her better half is incarcerated in an attic room, while Jane grows into a hair-shirted governess of a school run by the sadistic local clergy.

The genius of this becomes apparent when Jane finally arrives to tutor Rochester's daughter. In Teale's clever adaptation, the mad woman that Rochester keeps hidden at the top of his country house is brilliantly confused with Jane's secret self. It is a conceit that Stevenson, Shelley and Stoker, along with their collection of prize schizophrenics, would appreciate.

Locked up for the duration of the play, Pooky Quesset's attic prisoner becomes like Dorian Gray's portrait: a repressed, warped, childish, febrile monster. In her mud-stained, scarlet dress Quesset mimics the twitchy tics of Jane as she falls, against her will, for James Cley's Rochester. By the time Dorian's compelling Jane has fallen out with Rochester and fought off the

attentions of a dangerously evangelical preacher, her attic double is tied to a chair and writhing in an ecstasy of neglect. It is a riveting spectacle, delivered by a young company that does full justice to a classic ripping yarn.

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Spelling out the voting alternative

Robert MacLennan on the danger of half-hearted reform

After the 18 years of Tory drought, the heavens have opened. Constitutional reforms are pouring down. It is possible that the electoral system will be altered to secure fair representation across the country.

However, some faint-hearted wish to stop this with a system known as the Alternative Vote (AV). This will not do. They need to be reminded of the extraordinary times in which we live. On May 1, 60 per cent of the country voted for two parties which have 70 per cent of the MPs, and which put constitutional reform at the heart of their agenda. Labour pledged itself to reform, in endorsing the conclusions of the committee chaired by Robin Cook and myself. It was clear about its plans; this is what it said in its manifesto: "We are committed to a referendum on the voting system for the House of Commons. An independent commission on voting systems will be appointed early to recommend a proportional alternative to the first-past-the-post system (FPTP)."

Tony Blair has given us no reason to think that he will swerve from his commitment on proportional representation (PR). We can be confident that he will keep his word for a number of reasons. First, it would not be in his character to break his word. There were those who doubted Labour's willingness to deliver a fair voting system for the European elections in 1999, but the Government has found the time.

Secondly, the case for a referendum is supported by a large Labour majority, and also by 46 Liberal Democrat MPs, as well as members of other parties. Since the election the dialogue between Labour and the Liberal Democrats has continued. Labour has neither weakened nor deviated from the agreement we reached.

The electoral reformers who promoted the referendum and who support a proportional alternative to FPTP believe that PR will reform the nature and quality of government. In Edinburgh, Tony Blair heralded the victory on Scottish devolution as "the beginning of the end of big government". PR would bring that end still closer. In Britain, as in other advanced democracies, it is exceptional for one party to win a majority of the votes. Since PR ensures that seats in the legislature reflect numbers of votes cast, the largest party in Parliament would not normally have a majority of the seats. Without such a majority it would not be able to ride roughshod over the other parties.

Once you end the largest party's unfair majority of seats, Westminster reasserts itself against Whitehall. The executive and the legislature have to co-operate, or at least engage in dialogue. The wishes of minorities cannot be ignored because their votes are important to the larger parties. But nor will they be given undue weight, as voters will punish third parties in government for pursuing their own and not the public's priorities. As politics becomes more inclusive, then eccentric, dogmatic and narrowly based policies disappear and the

Government makes better decisions.

Reformers can be optimistic that Labour may come to favour PR because it will both advance the party's constitutional goals and work in Labour's interest. All PR systems should prevent a repetition of the postwar situation in which the Tories have won the greatest number of seats at eight elections, but scraped more than half the vote only once (in 1955).

Australia shows how AV operates. Since 1911, members of the House of Representatives (equivalent to our Commons) have been elected from single-member constituencies using AV. Instead of marking an X next to their preferred candidate, Australian voters rank all the candidates on the ballot paper. They give their favourite candidate a 1, their second favourite a 2, and so on. A candidate who gains a majority of 1s wins outright. Sometimes, however, this does not happen and an elimination process begins.

AV is complex and in fewer than 10 per cent of seats does it produce different results from the simpler FPTP. Clearly, FPTP produces oddities: in Britain in 1951, Labour won more votes than the Tories, but FPTP gave the Tories power. But AV, too, can produce freakish results. In 1951 Labour would probably have had five fewer seats under AV. In 1954, the Australian Labor Party received a majority of the primary vote and still failed to win the election. In 1977, the Australian Labor Party won 40 per cent of the votes, but only 28 per cent of the seats under AV.

It is hard to be certain how AV would affect the overall outcome of British elections. However, in the long run, no party can be sure that AV will work to its advantage. AV appears to add an unpredictable distortion to the effects of FPTP nationwide. It certainly does nothing to correct the regional and demographic distortions of FPTP. Under AV in 1997 the Tories would probably have lost both their seats in the urban North of England. In Scotland and Wales the 800,000 Tory voters would almost certainly not have been represented under AV. But when the pendulum swings the other way, the exaggerated unfairness for Labour could be even worse.

The danger with AV is that it will prevent real reform. Some see it as the first part of a move towards a proportional system, but this has not been the case in Australia, where there has been a campaign for PR for 70 years.

The introduction of AV would be a retrograde step which its advocates would require to be tested to destruction before the public would be given at last the opportunity to embrace a fair electoral system. That is no doubt why Labour's manifesto recommended a proportional alternative, and not simply any alternative to FPTP.

Robert MacLennan, MP, is the Liberal Democrat President, constitutional affairs spokesman and a member of the Cabinet's Joint Consultative Committee.

Even conventional politics have to take a back seat in the struggle for America's moral high ground

Promising start for cultural crusaders

I have never known a time when the Americans were feeling less political, or talking less about straight politics. Normally one finds in Washington that every other conversation ends up by discussing who is likely to be the next President. No doubt, as we get nearer to the year 2000, that will again become a hot topic, but nobody seems interested in it now. The issues which people are discussing are more cultural than political, though it is often politicians who make the cultural headlines in the press.

Last Friday the *New York Post* gave its front page to one of these stories. "Veep hails Hollywood for gay TV character". The actress, Ellen DeGeneres, in a character also called Ellen, came out as a lesbian on American television. Al Gore, speaking in Beverly Hills, said that "When the character of Ellen came out, millions of Americans were forced to look at sexual orientation in a more open light." He went on to predict a new "golden era" for Hollywood, but urged producers not to glorify violence, tobacco and drugs.

Gore's speech was closely in line with the new morality. "Progressive" Americans are very liberal on sexual matters, but come close to a prohibitionist view of tobacco, as well as drugs; some of them are hostile to the sale of alcohol as well. This sexual liberalism has been demonstrated in another recent news story, which has already reached England.

Jane Fonda, the icon of the 1960s, has joined with Durex Consumer Products, the contraceptive company, in a campaign to oppose the federal Government's \$30 million "abstinence until marriage" programme for the young. She says that "abstinence until marriage is based on an unreal world that isn't out there".

American politicians, who find themselves having to discuss these cultural and moral issues, would have met a familiar scene at the Conservative and Labour Party conferences, where there were among the most important issues raised. Republicans would have been out of line with the views of Michael Portillo and William Hague.

In the United States the political division on these issues is a complex one; President Clinton's Democratic Administration is proposing to spend \$50 million on promoting abstinence until marriage, though the funding for that campaign depends on Republican votes in Congress. But the general division of principle still holds: Republicans are the conservatives on moral issues, though they have a libertarian minority in their party; the leading Democrats are usually liberal on sexual issues, though interventionist on issues such as tobacco and the environment.

The conservative reaction to the new morality has been much stronger in the United States than anything we have seen in Britain. That has been true of the Right to Life campaign against abortion, and is also true of the Promise Keepers, the organisation of men who have committed themselves to a moral covenant. Their pledges include being Christ-centred, caring for their families, joining a small men's group, attending church, overcoming sectarian and racial divisions and spreading Christianity. The Promise Keepers belong to the American

tradition of Protestant evangelism which is particularly strong in the South and West.

In October the Promise Keepers had a great rally in Washington, which seems to have been attended by between 700,000 and one million men. They sang Martin Luther's moving hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*. President Clinton gave the rally his rather cautious approval: "There are those who have political differences with some of the statements which have been

William Rees-Mogg

made by some of the leaders of the organisation, but no one can question the sincerity of the hundreds of thousands of men who are willing to reassess their responsibilities to their families and to their children and therefore to our future." The commitment to male responsibility to the family, "the more about, no more abandonment," is the core of the Promise Keepers' covenant.

Before the rally, however, the Promise Keepers did not get much sympathy from network television. On the day, the rally was covered by C-Span, but according to Joyce Price,

writing in the *Washington Times*, NBC was the only evening network news bulletin to carry the story; both ABC and CBS stayed with college football.

Television would not have neglected a "politically correct" rally of this size. Women's groups were divided. Some women feel that the Promise Keepers are a masculine attempt to restore male dominance. This has been the view of the National Organisation of Women (NOW). On the other hand, some of the less radical women commentators took the view that it must be a good thing for men to promise to take their responsibilities within marriage more seriously.

There are also "New Traditionalist" women's groups who largely share the morality of the Promise Keepers, but from a woman's point of view. Some women in Washington came out to greet the rally with signs such as "Thank God for men who keep their promises".

When one discusses more obviously political issues, there is the same sort of response in the United States as in Britain. Health and education are the issues which people are most concerned about. The cost of the American healthcare system is enormous; there is increasing rationing of expensive treatments and investigations.

Education is largely financed locally by property taxes; the public schools are excellent in wealthy suburbs, but are underfunded where

the social problems are worst. Slum schools, filled with crime and drugs, form a Darwinian battleground for the survival of the fittest. Unfortunately, few people in those neighbourhoods can afford to send their children to the shelter of private schools.

In the United States, among all the major ethnic groups, there is now a moral battle, what Bismarck called a *Kultur Kampf*, between those who believed in Christian rules of conduct and those who follow the new morality. The media and the academic community are generally speaking on the side of the new morality, as are many, but by no means all, of those who belong to the "cognitive elite", the high-flyers of the prosperous middle class. The conservative movement lacks publicity; the more fashionable lifestyle of Hollywood, of supermodels and of television personalities gives glamour to the new morality.

However, the moral conservatives are a mass movement; they get strength from the fact that they are not the elite, that they are not "iluminist liberals", but ordinary, low and middle-income working Americans. Apart from the very poor, they are the social group which has been closest to the damage of the fragmented family. They blame family breakdown on the decline of Christian belief and on the "rebellious culture" which has been propagated by the social and cultural elite.

When the *New York Post* reports that Al Gore wants to "force" millions of Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a more open light", the tabloid editors know that many New Yorkers, who do not live on Park Avenue, will see that as yet another elitist attack on the family. Perhaps the President's line on the Promise Keepers shows better political judgment than Al Gore's, if not greater personal sincerity.

Who shall go back to the ball?

By-elections can create comebacks — and unpleasant surprises, says Peter Riddell



The pulses of many former Tory MPs will have quickened last week when they heard that Piers Merchant was to quit the Commons. Sympathy for the messy end of a political career will have been accompanied, and soon overtaken, by speculation about the chances of a possible return to the Commons at a by-election just six months after being defeated.

By-elections are among the most important, yet often misunderstood, aspects of politics. The forthcoming contests in Paisley South, Winchester and Beckenham will attract enormous interest, and rightly so. However, by-elections are often dismissed as little consequence, unrepresentative and over-hyped events with few wider implications for the next general election. But that is to misread their role, as is clear from a timely new survey, *By-elections in British Politics*, edited by Chris Cook and John Ramsden.

As David Butler points out in his introduction, by-elections "are so much discussed as barometers of public opinion that it is easy to ignore their basic function — the replacement of a Member of Parliament". Not only did both William Hague and Michael Portillo first enter the Commons via a by-election, but Oppositions have eagerly used the first by-elections of a Parliament to bring back their heavyweight casualties. Harold Macmillan returned for Bromley, next door to Beckenham, in November 1945 after losing his Stockton seat four months earlier. Anthony Barber was returned for Altrincham and Sale in February 1965, also four months after the 1964 general election.

So there is a well-trodden and

distinguished route for Mr Portillo, Sir Malcolm Rifkind or any other former minister to follow. But governing parties have not always been as successful as Oppositions in bringing back unexpectedly defeated senior figures. The second defeat of Patrick Gordon Walker, then Foreign Secretary, at Leyton in January 1965 has never been forgotten and was one reason why Chris Patten turned down the option of an arranged by-election in 1992.

By-elections allow opposition parties to display their strengths. The greater volatility of voters in the past two decades has produced some spectacular swings. These are often mistakenly treated as long-term forecasts, rather than expressions of short-term protest. The sceptics are right that by-election results are wholly unreliable as any kind of

predictor of a later general election outcome, even one only a few months away. The venerable Peter Snow, entertained, but seriously misled, with his graphic extrapolations about what a particular result might mean for the party balance in the Commons. In the last Parliament, the Tories often pointed out that in 1992 they regained all eight seats they had lost over the previous five years. In last May's landslide, however, they won back a mere one out of nine previously lost. The longer-term average is that between two fifths and three fifths of seats lost in by-elections are later recaptured.

But to dismiss by-elections as merely outlets for protest votes is to miss the point. Protests can them-

selves be significant. By-elections, or opinion polls, cannot be treated as a judgment on which party should form the next Government. The size of the swing, or fall in the previous vote, are rough-and-ready measures of current unpopularity. Precise figures, which can be influenced by local factors and tactical voting, matter less than broad trends. The consistency of poor Tory results, and good Labour ones, from 1994 up to Wirral West last February showed that the Tories remained deeply unpopular and were failing to win back support.

Moreover, by-elections can have a big public impact — from the days of John Wilkes's repeated re-elections for Middlesex in 1769-70. As Dr Butler points out, the Conservative victory in Newport in October 1922 helped to bring down the Lloyd

George coalition, while Westminster St George's saved Baldwin in 1931. East Fulham in 1953 was seen as demonstrating public opposition to rearmament, and Orpington heralded the Tory disaster of 1962-63. More recently, the Tory rout in Ribbles Valley in March 1991 added to the pressures to replace the poll tax by the council tax. Bad by-election results can influence party management and force Cabinet reshuffles.

The coming by-elections will affect the opposition parties more than the Government, leaving aside what should be the Labour safe seat of Paisley South. The main interest in Beckenham is the identity of the Tory candidate. Winchester is the first case since 1910 where a general election result has been declared void by the High Court. This was because 35 ballot papers failed to be stamped with the correct mark and this might have reversed the two-vote victory by the Liberal Democrat Mark Oaten. The result gives Gerry Malone, the former Health Minister, another chance. What will happen to the 1,598 votes cast on May 1 for the Referendum Party and the 1,700 for four other independents? A Eurosceptic looks like running.

The by-election will test Paddy Ashdown's closer links with the Blair Government, which have already created worries in his own party. Mr Malone has attacked the Lib Dem for being the same as Labour. Despite some talk about standing aside, Labour is likely to put up a candidate, though may not mount much of a campaign, having won just 10.5 per cent of the vote on May 1. Much is at stake. A win for Mr Malone would be a big boost for Mr Hague's leadership, and could fuel criticism of Mr Ashdown's strategy.

Overall, by-elections matter, not as predictors but for the fate of politicians and parties. Professor Ivor Crewe is right that "in the river of British politics, most by-elections are mere pebbles; but among them are rocks that capsize the canoeists and the occasional boulder that alters the course of the flow." If Beckenham is mainly remembered as a stepping-stone for the revival of a political career, Winchester could be a jagged rock.

Cereal thriller

NOW that Glenn Hoddle's family is no longer deemed quite the thing to advertise Shredded Wheat, a new clan has swept into the fevered imagination of its advertising agency: the Majors.

A proposed new advert for the breakfast cereal would follow a similar format to the old one, which depicted England's triumphant football coach sitting at the table with his wife, Anne and their offspring, Zara, 11, Jamie, five, and Zoe, 14. This was pulled last week

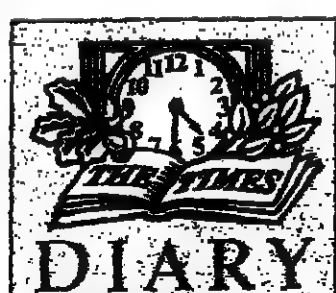
after Hoddle and his wife separated.

It is hoped that the Majors' two children, Elizabeth, 25 and James, 22, would appear in the remake, although they have both long since left home.

"The Majors are an ideal family unit," says a voice at the advertising agency, McCann-Erickson. "They are not going to appear on your television screens shortly, but we are working on strategies where we would consider them."

An approach has yet to be made but that is likely to change. How it will be received by Major remains to be seen. Another problem for Nestlé, makers of the stuff, is the domestic situation of Master James: he is renowned for his friendship with an older woman.

● A TRICKY one for that masterful political operator, Lord Wakeham. The chairman of the Press Complaints Commission has been appointed as Deputy-Lieuten-



ant of Hampshire, making him a representative of the Queen in that county. Now he might be asked to adjudicate in disputes about royal coverage. It is a good job Lord W is such an honourable man, otherwise cynics might suggest a conflict of interest.

Salty tale

THE bracing air of Brighton has inspired Labour MPs representing coastal seats. Blackpool South MP Gordon Marsden has set up the Blackbench Seaside Group, which will promote the delights of life *sur la plage*. MPs will be bringing their buckets and spades to the inaugural meeting next month. Unfortunately, Marsden is determined to kick sand in the face of

Tory MPs — the group is for Labour Members only. Sir Teddy Taylor, Southend East MP, is aggrieved. "It is very sad. All parties should work together on these issues. I hope Marsden will have second thoughts and invite me," he said from his deckchair.

Stage fright

A London musical about the relationship between Noël Coward and Gertrude Lawrence has dismayed Gertrude's daughter, Pamela Clavworthy. She accuses the production, *Noël and Gertrude*, which just opened at the Jermy Street Theatre, of having "no bearing in reality" and says it "belittles the intricate relationship they shared".

Despite Coward's reputation for dancing on only one side of the stage, his relationship with Lawrence fuelled much contemporary gossip. The musical, written by the ebullient luvvie and Coward biographer Sheridan Morley, has evoked mixed opinions. While Twigg, who is to play the part of Lawrence when the production hits the United States next summer, enthused "I'm loving it", Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare managed only a few snarls from the seat behind me.

● ENTHUSIASM for the Australian cricket team has failed to penetrate Charlotte, North Carolina. At an auction held during the town's annual cricket tournament earlier this month, a bat signed by the Heartaches — a second-league cricket team belonging to the lyricist Tim Rice — raised £400. When a bat signed by the entire Aussie Test side came under the hammer, it raised a meagre £100.

Good taste?

LAST night's launch of LWT's new food show *Dinner Dates* must have surprised television viewers. The hosts of the show are former footballer Lee Chapman and his actress wife Leslie Ash, whose relationship, despite being depicted as the apotheosis of domestic bliss, was shown in the cheaper prints last week to be stormy.

Equally surprised was the proprietor of a chic dating company whose name LWT had borrowed for the title of its show. Hillie Marshall, writer on relationships, agency aunt and proprietor of the *Dinner Dates* company, is concerned that the rather *de trop* programme might damage the reputation of her company. "I was horrified," said Marshall.

"It's such a vulgar-looking effort. My solicitor sent a letter to LWT asking for a disclaimer to be broadcast, or for them to change the name — but they refused. It all seems so unfair."

● ONE hopeful unlikely to reach the Beckenham shortlist is Nicholas Budgen. The former MP spent the Tory conference touting himself around constituency representatives. "I intend to stand in the next by-election," Budgen told me. "I like politics. I'm rather good at it. After supporting Lord Tebbit on race relations? Hmmm."

Spaced out

NEW Labour's battle for office space at overcrowded Westminster continues. "The Tories are holding on to rooms they were allocated for their non-existent MPs," complains Stephen Pound, MP for Ealing North. His advice: "Buy Janet Anderson as many drinks as possible." She is the formidable government whip who hands out offices to MPs. Pound has his eye on Piers Merchant's room, "but I don't know what I'll find in there."

● ANOTHER tough decision for William Hague: should he accept



Kate Winslett: admired

an invitation to join the Prince of Wales at the Royal Gala Film Premiere next month? As Tory leader, he ought to attend but his advisers have pointed out that the film, *Titanic*, billed as the ultimate disaster movie, is bound to lead to more embarrassing headlines. Hague is still keen to go. He has been promised that the starlet Kate Winslett — for whom he has a particular weakness — will be there. Don't tell Pffm, anyone.

JASPER GERARD



INS AND OUTS

How Blair can defend Britain's interests outside EMU

By ruling out entry into the European monetary union for the duration of this Parliament, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have acted boldly and wisely. They have given Britain time to weigh the biggest transfer of national sovereignty in modern history. They have also averted a serious threat to the credibility, stability and popularity of the new Labour Government. But Mr Blair will continue to be dogged, like every other postwar Prime Minister, by questions about Europe. The most daunting and urgent of these will be about the relationship between Britain and the new single currency zone. When the Prime Minister meets Helmut Kohl this morning he would do well to concentrate on this issue.

Only last week the German Chancellor agreed with France to create an "informal" committee of EMU finance ministers — excluding those of non-EMU countries — which would meet before every official meeting of Ecofin, the European council of economic and finance ministers. This EMU "stability council" would in theory confine its agendas to matters directly relevant to the operation of the single currency zone. In practice, however, federalists who see the single currency as the decisive step towards an economic government of Europe will be tempted to transform the stability council into the real decision-making body, reducing the official Ecofin to a mere rubber stamp. For European federalists this would give EMU an explicit political dimension and create a powerful "political counterweight" to the unaccountable European central bank. It would have the added advantage of excluding from Europe's key economic decisions the "awkward squad" of nationally minded countries, including Britain, which have often acted as a brake on the federalist and interventionist ambitions of Brussels.

Britain obviously cannot prevent the EMU countries meeting to discuss matters of common interest. This does not mean, however, that Mr Blair must accept that a loss of British influence over European policy outside the strictly monetary sphere is now inevitable. Still less should he concede

that EMU must naturally lead to an extension of European economic harmonisation outside the monetary sphere. This is precisely what Herr Kohl, Jacques Santer and other federalist-minded European leaders maintain in private — and will doubtless argue publicly once EMU is launched.

Britain is in a strong position to resist this stepwise encroachment of federalism. Mr Blair has three powerful cards to play. The first is his domestic political popularity, now reinforced by his decision to hold fire on EMU, which gives him a claim to speak as the genuine voice of his people that none of his European counterparts can match. His second advantage is the good performance of the British economy, particularly with regard to employment. This gives credibility to his vision of a decentralised and market-orientated European economy, with the emphasis on policies at the national level to deal with social problems.

Mr Blair's third advantage is less glamorous, but even more important. This is the requirement for unanimity on most of the major decisions of economic governance under the treaties of Rome, Maastricht and Amsterdam. These include any EU attempt to co-ordinate or harmonise policies on taxes, social security and public spending. This gives Britain, along with the other non-EMU countries, an unbeatable trump card for use in future conflicts with any "informal" consensus reached by the proposed EMU stability council. As long as Britain and the other EMU "outs" retain their powers of veto over taxes and other key economic policies, they can resist any tide of economic federalism sweeping out from Germany and the rest of the EMU zone.

Now that Mr Blair has decided to stay out of EMU for the next five years, he must make clear to Herr Kohl and other European leaders that he will have no qualms about using the veto to protect Britain's national interests. Only thus can he defend the ideal of the EU as a community of co-operative but independent nation states — with equal treatment assured to all nations, whether in or out of the single currency zone.

OFF THE MARK

A reformed system should reduce A-level appeals

A fresh cause for complaint about the A-level has been added to criticisms of the content of courses and the debate on whether the rising pass rate reflects stronger performance or weaker standards. Serious flaws have come to light in both the quality of A-level marking and the appeals process. The problems in grading scripts may turn out to be concentrated on certain boards and subjects. But the flaws in the appeals procedure have relevance across the spectrum. Examining A-levels is an unusually thankless task, ill-paid and compressed into an extraordinarily short period of time. Allowing for these constraints, many markers perform remarkably well. Yet when errors in A-level assessment stem from either failure to add up marks correctly or the misinterpretation of marking conventions, this is profoundly unsatisfactory. It invites the suspicion that many more errors exist within the machine.

Problems are compounded by the complexity of the current appeals procedure. At present students and schools first petition the board itself. An autonomous figure associated with the board is called in and, if the question is still in dispute, the issue is then referred to the Independent Appeals Authority. A significant number of A-level grades are reassessed at this final stage. The time it takes to go through all these hoops means that students are often left with an undesirable choice. They can accept their initial marks and with it their second choice university. Alternatively, they can endure

the bureaucracy but may need to defer entry for a year as a consequence. Since next year they must contribute to tuition fees, delay now would have financial consequences.

Two innovations are required. At least one if not two stages of the appeal process could be abolished. The examination boards should also abandon their extreme reluctance to allow schools to see contested scripts. A-levels are obviously not public documents. But some cases, head teachers might be less inclined to pursue a protest if they were allowed confidential access to these exam papers. Obsessive confidentiality does not inspire customer confidence.

The boards have every interest in minimising initial error and dealing expeditiously with challenges. Reforms would allow the examiners to return some fire of their own. Noting the rapidly rising number of appeals, the boards suspect that some schools automatically appeal if the mark awarded falls short of that which teachers predicted. They argue that the possibility that the original estimate or the examination performance, not the assessment, is at fault is rarely given enough weight.

In some instances, the examiners surely have a case. But until the appeals procedure is restructured these arguments will not receive much attention. The A-level is supposed to be the "gold standard" of this country's education. The Labour Government is not wholly convinced. That is all the more reason, in everyone's interest, to address failings in the system.

SHAKESPEARE'S MEAN STREETS

The Bard sets out to get under the skin of sport

A famous skit in *Beyond the Fringe* had a worthy clergyman say "We must get violence off the streets — and into the Church, where it belongs." Thirty years on, the Royal Shakespeare Company is putting good money into doing just that for the Bard. Nineties lads, the RSC has discovered, are not buying tickets. The idea is to tempt them in by convincing them that there is as much blood and guts in Shakespeare as in the most violent movie.

The RSC scored a hit with a poster for *Coriolanus*, featuring a blood-soaked Toby Stephens as a "natural born killer" and thoroughly modern yobbo. Now, it is hitting newspaper sports pages with action-man advertisements designed "to relate to men on their own level". Yorick's skull doubles as a football — a theme adapted from a larger advertisement by Carling, sponsor of the FA Premiership. Agincourt becomes an "away game" which was literally a matter of "life and death". *Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood: all the pitch is a stage.*

Faced with the RSC's marketing problems, Shakespeare, a ruthlessly commercial playwright who slipped scenes to make the "groundlings" hold their sides into the taniest tragedy, would probably have done the same. The RSC runs some risk of overkill. It is stretching a point to present Hamlet as just another young man with today's problems; he may have come from a broken home, but it had battlements, not to mention a family ghost. As for Henry V, it is hard to

imagine a football coach telling the team, as Henry did when rallying the troops before Harfleur, that "In peace there's nothing so becomes a man / As modest stillness and humility". And before Lear's madness can glue them to their seats, the lads will have to get past the play's less than trendy opening line: "I thought the King had more affected the Duke of Albany than Cornwall."

But Macbeth is as vicious a serial murderer as any on the screen, his wife packs more "girl power" than any Spice, and the blinding of Gloucester is as sickening as any celluloid torture scene. If the campaign persuades art-shy lads to give the plays another shot they will rediscover what many of them once knew in school, that for fast-paced, tense scripts Shakespeare is unbeaten.

The Bard is just right for "new lads" in other ways, too. No qualifications, no job? Blame society, like Caliban: "You taught me language; and my profit on't / Is, I know how to curse." A tough business deal? *The Merchant of Venice* has a trick or two about how to make a contract accident-proof, even if it does skate close to the law. Trouble with girls? Take lessons from *The Taming of the Shrew*, but then make up with Othello's haunting "I do love thee and when I love thee not, / Chaos is come again" — and hope that she, unlike you, hasn't seen the play to the end. The RSC's campaign will be a "poor thing" if it stops with action man; there is as much violence in love as in war; and Shakespeare knew this better than Hollywood.

Fences to be jumped if 'first past the post' is abandoned

From Professor Emeritus Francis West

Sir, Sir Robin Day ("Not quite first past the post", October 15), in arguing the case for the Alternative Vote (AV) in parliamentary elections over the Single Transferable Vote (STV), proposes three modifications to the system: reduce the weight of preference votes of lower-scoring candidates; confine preferences to the four highest and exclude the preferences of any candidate gaining less than 3 per cent of the votes cast.

Perhaps these modifications would make AV simpler, but they would not ensure Sir Robin's aim that candidates should not be elected on a minority vote. To the contrary. If some preferences are limited and others excluded, it is perfectly possible for a candidate to be elected on less than 50 per cent of the votes cast — a situation which could only be avoided if the voter were required to express preferences as regards every one of the candidates on the ballot paper. Even then, unless there is compulsory voting, a winning candidate may well have less than 50 per cent of registered voters.

No doubt the proposed commission, on voting systems will look at the Australian model for the House of Representatives.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

FRANCIS WEST
(Professor Emeritus of History and Government,
Deakin University, Australia),
Churchill College, Cambridge,
October 16.

From Mr David Prockter

Sir, Sir Robin Day gives only one valid reason why we should introduce the Alternative Vote system — the fact that "it would... be fairer than first-past-the-post, under which many MPs can be elected even though more votes have been cast against them than for them".

Global warming

From Dr David Carson

Sir, In response to Nigel Hawkes's question "Is the Earth really getting hotter?" (Mind and Matter, October 13), we can answer without demur "yes".

The temperature rise of about 0.6°C recorded close to the Earth's surface over the last century is simulated by climate models when all the factors which influence climate are taken into account, not just greenhouse gases.

Once the interfering effects of El Niño warming and volcanic cooling are subtracted from the satellite record, there remains a small upward trend in global temperature. This trend is smaller than at the surface, but deducing trends from only 18 years of satellite observations is very difficult.

Climate models do not require, as Hawkes suggests, that the temperature of the lower atmosphere is determined by a balance between incoming solar radiation and outgoing infrared radiation; in the real world heat is also transported by convection and evaporation, and the models represent this.

We certainly would not wish to pretend that we have all the answers, but the state of our knowledge is not as bleak as Hawkes makes out, and it is wrong of him to suggest that "most experts... disregard" satellite data.

DAVID CARSON

(Director),
Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research,
Meteorological Office,
London Road, Bracknell, Berkshire,
djc@meteo.gov.uk
October 13.

Llamas on patrol

From Mr Paul L. Rose

Sir, Malcolm Smith's article in *Weekend* (October 11) on the Forestry Commission's report, *Foxes and Forestry*, highlights the depressing conclusion that the fox population can never be significantly reduced. Yet in its quest for a solution to the problem of predation of lambs and poultry by foxes, the commission's report apparently overlooks one of the most successful methods yet devised.

In the United States, farmers have found that the inclusion of a gelding llama into their sheep flocks as a guard dramatically reduces losses of stock from predators as varied as foxes, coyotes and even bears. The llama has the advantages of being economic, enjoyable and easy to keep, as well as being highly effective.

In a study conducted by Iowa State University among over 200 farms with serious predation problems, it was found that the inclusion of a llama in the flock reduced losses from an average of 21 per cent to 7 per cent. The main cause of failure, where it occurred, was the very extensive range the llama had to protect, a difficult task likely to be encountered in the UK.

Indeed, of the farmers to whom we have supplied a llama for this purpose in England, all have reported lamb losses from predation completely eliminated.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL L. ROSE
The Cotswold Llama Farm,
Temple Guiting, Gloucestershire,
October 13.

Sport letters, page 33

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Carey's comments require reflection

From the Reverend David Dale

Sir, Dr Carey's comments (report, October 14) suggest to me a misunderstanding of the nature of liturgy and evangelism and will encourage priests to break their promise only to use authorised liturgies. Acts of worship which are not built upon doctrinal orthodoxy, but rather upon what will entice the largest number into church, or anywhere else, are precisely what is causing the dissolution of Anglican identity and the decline in average Sunday attendances.

Evangelism is not a matter of providing what the man on the Clapham omnibus will swallow — performed, I suppose, on the top deck of the Clapham omnibus. It is exciting Christ in doctrinally sound liturgy and preaching, which issue in holiness of life. In this parish, which uses the Book of Common Prayer twice each Sunday and Rite B from the Alternative Service Book once, and which has no truck with heterodox high jinks, the average Sunday attendance (which includes people of all ages, status and income) has grown by over 50 per cent in five years. Orthodoxy — the true glory of man in Christ — works. It should be encouraged, not constantly criticised and talked down.

The ill-considered religious activity conducted in bizarre venues which has been urged upon us during the same five years has caused average Sunday attendances, in general, to plummet: it simply does not work.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DALE,
All Saints' Vicarage,
Ryde, Isle of Wight,
October 14.

From the Reverend John Wynburne

Sir, The Archbishop's encouragement to take church services into the pubs, supermarkets and onto the streets needs careful reflection. While it is mistaken to confine the presence of God to any building, holy places have always been set apart for worship. In the midst of commercial, industrial and residential premises, the church building offers us a signal of transcendence, a window upon God. We can indeed worship God anywhere, providing that the context of that worship serves... our hearts and minds to a spiritual dimension and facilitates encounter with the divine.

Yours sincerely,
J. P. B. WYNBURN,
The Rectory, Wycombe End,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire,
October 14.

In the beginning...

From Mr Keith Brace

Sir, The opening sentence from Ford Madox Ford's *The Good Soldier* might perhaps have made the list of striking opening lines in *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations* (Jenners, October 18), had it been quoted correctly.

It is not "This is the greatest story I've ever heard" — as Sue Arnold is said to have quoted it (report, October 13) — but "This is the saddest story I have ever heard".

Yours sincerely,
KEITH BRACE,
Greenbank, Frognor Road,
Sunderfield, Warwickshire,
October 13.

Snap judgment

From Mr B. W. Ravenscroft

Sir, Mr D. B. Gurrey (letter, October 15) inquires about matrimonial decisions. When we married, nearly 40 years ago, we decided that I should make the major decisions and my wife the minor ones. Moreover, I was to decide which was which.

It has worked perfectly ever since. And I remain, yours sincerely,
B. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Bramble, St John's Park,
Menston, Ilkley, West Yorkshire.
PS: I have my wife's permission to send this.

From Mrs Penny Granger

Sir, Mr Gurrey might like to consider the rule that applies in this household: those who have contributed the most to preparing the meal are excused washing-up duty. But last-minute offers to lay the table do not count towards exemption.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY GRANGER,
88 Queen Edith's Way, Cambridge.
p.granger@btinternet.com
October 15.

Heard on the High

From Mr Jonathan Lamb

Sir, The Reverend David Copley's letter (October 17) on learned conversations overheard in Oxford streets brings to mind the contributor to a radio programme some years ago who said he had seen two gowned figures approaching him on the High, deep in conversation.

As they passed him he heard only two words: "And ninthly..."

Your obedient servant,
J. C. LAMB,
The United Oxford and Cambridge University Club,
71 Pall Mall, SW1,
October 17.

In an attempt to eliminate such cases, AV sets out to discover which candidate the "non-for" voters are least against. But, although Sir Robin describes the system as "simplicity itself", with his proposed additions it would involve such a palaver that it is hard to see how the voters could possibly predict the consequences of their choices.

It would be more conclusive to introduce a simple last-past-the-post system in which electors were asked to put their cross against the name of the candidate they would least like to see elected. The candidate with the fewest votes would then be returned on one straightforward count and fairness would be seen to have been done.

On the other hand, we could leave well alone.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PROCKTER,
36 London Road,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
October 15.

From Professor Vernon Bogdanor, FBA

Sir, The Alternative Vote system is used to elect the Australian lower house. It has produced outcomes even more erratic than those occurring under our own first-past-the-post system.

In 1954, Labor won just over 50 per cent of first-preference votes, but the Liberal/Country Party coalition, which gained just 47 per cent of first preferences, was returned to power. In 1961, Labor won 48 per cent of first-preference votes, but its Liberal/Country Party opponents were again returned to power on just 42 per cent of first-preference votes.

In 1977, Labor yet again won a greater number of first-preference votes than any other party, but the Liberals, with just 38 per cent of first preferences, gained an overall majority of seats, and the Liberal-National coalition controlled two thirds of the

The case for reviewing homicide law

From Mr B. J. Mitchell

Sir, May I echo the call made by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and Professor Terence Morris, in their letter of October 10, for a review of the law of homicide, especially as regards the two principal crimes of murder and manslaughter.

Notwithstanding reports made by the Criminal Law Revision Committee (1980) and a House of Lords select committee (1989), a number of important questions remain, including: Is the law right to say that in order to be convicted killers who commit the worst homicides (murder) need not intend to kill, provided they intend to seriously injure?

Are there two separate offences — gross negligence manslaughter and reckless manslaughter — or does the former encompass the latter? The need for a clearer definition of the former is paramount.

What is the true meaning of the "loss of self-control" requirement? Why should the provocation be in the form of human conduct? What is its relationship with diminished responsibility manslaughter? (Defendants not uncommonly plead both, yet legal theory suggests the two are mutually exclusive.)

Virtual libraries

From Mr R. Conrad

Sir, You report on October 11 (see also letters, October 16) that "Every public library in Britain should provide access to the Internet" under a plan backed by Tony Blair.

The day before, *The Oxford Times* reported: "A pioneering computer centre [in the Westgate Library] intended to help people overcome their fear of new technology is shutting on October 18 — just six months after a grand opening by a government minister. Too few people were using... [it]."

Wrong Government?

Yours faithfully,
R. CONRAD,
22 Hartley Court,
Woodstock Road, Oxford.
r.conrad@btinternet.com
October 16.

Technology in schools

From the Reverend Andy McMullon

Sir, As a first and middle school governor with responsibilities for computing and information technology, I believe we should by all means take advantage of Mr Bill Gates's interest in education, but I agree with your leading article's concerns (October 8; see also letters, October 15) that at the same time we should take steps to safeguard against the potential dangers of putting too much power into a single pair of corporate hands.

The best way to ensure this is to insist that all the interests involved in the provision of technology (both hardware and software) and educational content (Internet or CD-based) provide open systems which can be fully integrated alongside the others into the Web-usage that Mr Blair wants our children to have.

Yours faithfully,
ANDY McMULLON,
95 Airfield Road, Upper Marham,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
skypilot@bigfoot.com

seats on 48 per cent of the vote. In 1990, by contrast, Labor won an overall majority of seats, although gaining nearly 4 per cent fewer first-preference votes than the Liberal-National coalition.

Sir Robin argues that under STV "you are liable to have permanent coalition government". Yet, in the Irish Republic, where this system operates, there has been single-party government for around half the period since Irish independence, and single-party majority government for around a quarter of that period.

There is nothing whatever to stop voters, under STV or any other proportional system, from giving a single party a majority, provided that 50 per cent, or nearly 50 per cent, are prepared to vote for it. A system which allows the largest minority, or, as in Australia, the second-largest minority, to enjoy an absolute majority in the legislature, seems to me the very antithesis of democratic government.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Brasenose College, Oxford,
October 15.

From Mr Oliver Morton

Sir, Sir Robin Day wrongly states that the Single Transferable Vote system cannot be used for by-elections.

An STV election could be held in a multi-member constituency that has lost one of its MPs. The remaining MPs, who do not contest the empty seat, are then joined by the first candidate to pass the 50 per cent mark.

Such a one-candidate version of STV would be quite fair, and effectively identical to the Alternative Vote system preferred by Sir Robin.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER MORTON,
142 Greenwich High Road,
Greenwich, SE10.
abq72@pop.dial.pipex.com
October 15.

How should the law deal with mercy killing or euthanasia? There is a wealth of evidence to show that large numbers of people do not want this to be treated as murder, and the current practice of relying on sympathetic psychiatrists to support a diminished responsibility plea is unfair and unsatisfactory.

In addition, my own recent research suggests that various parts of the law and sentencing are out of step with public opinion, which may help to explain why court verdicts do not always reflect legal theory.

The present law has evolved in a largely piecemeal fashion: what is needed is a wholesale review of the homicide law, including fundamental principles.

The fact that we are fortunate in having relatively few homicides compared, say, to the United States, is no reason for refusing to tackle such an important set of problems.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. MITCHELL,
(Reader in Criminal Justice),
School of International
Studies and Law,
Coventry University,
Priory Street, Coventry,
October 13.

Drink-drive limit

From Mr J. M. Jones

Sir, Mr Hugh Johnson (letter, October 15) claims that lowering the blood-alcohol limit would impoverish the lives of people living in rural areas.

Are we to understand that driving round country lanes and roads while under the influence of alcohol does something to enrich the lives of people living in these areas?

If, as he possibly means, these individuals' only source of solace and contact with the rest of humanity is the local public house, or dining out with friends, could they not take turns with a partner or friend to do the driving but not drink alcohol?

Yours sincerely,
J. M. JONES,
36 Hippodroomlaan,
B-1933 Sierrebeek, Belgium,
October 15.

Saxon warhorse

From Mr Anthony Maynard

Sir, We too have excavated an East Anglian horse burial this year (report and leading article, October 8; letters, October 11), amid Anglo-Saxon skeletons, as part of a long-term village project involving students at all levels from primary school to postgraduate, and the interested public. That is archaeology.

We do, though, have our sensitivities, and intend ultimately to re-inter the skeletons at the site and erect a suitable memorial.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MAYNARD
(Trustee),
Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project,
Hill Farm, Church Lane,
Sedgeford, Norfolk,
October 11.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 18: The Queen, Patron, the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, this morning visited the Cheshire Home, Chesham, and met residents, supporters and staff.

Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh later attended a Reception at Cottingham (Deputy High Commissioner's residence), Chennai.

His Royal Highness this morning attended the Chennai and Bangalore UK Business Association Reception at Westminster House, Chennai, and subsequently visited Hardy Exploration and Production Ltd.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon left Chennai (Madras) Airport for London.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, attended by the Royal Air Force, the Lady Elton, the Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes, Major General Sir Simon Cooper, Mr Robin Janvry, Mr Geoffrey Crawford, Surgeon Captain David Swain RN, Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy, Lieutenant Commander Toby Williamson RN and Brigadier Miles J. Davis, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening from India and were received at the Airport by the Earl of Airle Kt (Lord Chamberlain) and Mrs Linda Hudson (Duty Manager, Heathrow Airport).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 18: The Princess Royal, Viscountess, this morning was represented by the Lady Margaret Tennant at the Memorial Service for Mr Thomas Scott (former Director) which was held in Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh, this morning.

October 18: Miss Jane Walther-Clowes has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at a Gala Performance of Handel's Messiah at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, London SW1, given in aid of Help the Hospices and in thanking for hospice care throughout the world.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 18: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this morning were received by The Amr of the

State of Bahrain (Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa) and the Prime Minister (Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa) at Government House, Manama.

Later Their Royal Highnesses visited the Bahrain Red Crescent Society Manama.

The Duke of Gloucester afterwards attended a presentation of the South Hild Port Project at the Ministry of Works and Agriculture and later visited Shaikh Isa bin Ali House, Muharraq.

The Duchess of Gloucester visited Salmaniya Hospital.

Afterwards The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were entertained to luncheon by The Crown Prince of the State of Bahrain (Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa) at Wasmayah Palace, Manama.

This afternoon Their Royal Highnesses visited the Bahrain National Museum.

The Duke of Gloucester later visited the Royal Air Force detachment at Muharraq.

The Duchess of Gloucester visited the British Council, Manama. This evening Their Royal Highnesses were entertained to Dinner by The Amr of the State of Bahrain at Gudabiyah Palace.

YORK HOUSE

October 18: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman, the British Overseas Airways Board, this afternoon left Heathrow Airport, London, for Seoul, Korea.

Mr Nicolas Adamson is in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, British Telecommunications, this morning attended a performance of the Messiah in Southwark Cathedral, London SE1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

RICHMOND PARK

October 18: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning visited the "Adventure with Wallace and Gromit" exhibition at the Artium Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America.

Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy this afternoon toured the Phoenix Central Library and later visited the Zandra Rhodes exhibition, "The Sun and Beyond", in the Phoenix Art Museum, North Central Avenue, Phoenix.

Princess Alexandra and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy this evening

attended the "Culture Shock" Compass Dinner at the Phoenix Heritage and Science Park.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 19: The Duke of York, Admiral, Sea Cadet Corps, today took the salute at the Sea Cadet Corps Trafalgar Parade, Trafalgar Square, London WC2.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 19: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this morning departed the State of Bahrain for the State of Qatar and were received on arrival by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the State of Qatar His Excellency Mr David Wright.

His Royal Highness was later received and entertained to luncheon by the Amr of the State of Qatar (Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani) at the Asiri Diwan, Doha.

Her Royal Highness visited the Shaikh Khalifa Tennis Complex. This afternoon The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester visited the private art gallery of Shaikh Hassan bin Mohammed Al Thani and later visited the British Council, Doha.

Their Royal Highnesses this evening attended a Reception followed by Dinner given by Her Majesty's Ambassador and Mrs Wright at the British Embassy.

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October 19: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning visited the "Adventure with Wallace and Gromit" exhibition at the Artium Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America.

Birthdays today

Sir James Achter, former chairman, West Midlands Regional Health Authority, 62; Sir Colin Barker, former chairman, British Technology Group, 71; Mr Hume Boggis-Rolle, former deputy secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 84; Sir Edwin Bolland, former diplomat, 75; the Hon Chris Cowdrey, cricketer, 40; Professor Sir Richard Crossland, CBE, mechanical engineer, 78; Mr Lawrence Daly, trade unionist, 73; Professor Sir Douglas Hague, former chairman, Economic and Social Research Council, 71; the Very Rev James Harkness, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 62; Mr Austin Karik, former managing director, BBC External Services, 71; Mr Eddie Macken, showjumper, 48; Judge Deirdre McKinney, 69; Miss Erid Marx, painter and designer, 95; Mr J.G. Mide, former Vice-Chancellor, York University, 73; Sir Alexander Stirling, former diplomat, 71; the Hon Emma Tennant, writer, 60; Mr Timothy West, actor, 63.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Christopher Wren, architect, 1632; Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston, Prime Minister 1855-58 and 1859-65; Broadlands, Hampshire, 1784; Colin Campbell, 1st Baron of Breadalban, 1802; Thomas Hughes, author of *Tom Brown's School Days*, 1822; Odion Redon, painter, Bordeaux, 1840; Arthur Rimbaud, poet, Charleville, France, 1854.

DEATHS: Jacopo Della Quercia, sculptor, Bologna, 1438; William Wollaston, philosopher, London, 1724; Grace Darling, heroine of the Forthshire wreck, Bamborough, Northumberland, 1842; Sir Richard Burton, explorer and scholar, Trieste, 1894; James Anthony Froude, Victorian historian, 1904; Nobel Peace laureate 1934, King George I was crowned, 1714.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Trustee, will attend a meeting of the trustees of the Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead at Eton College, Berkshire, at 5.45 and will attend a Royal Charity Gala at the Parter Theatre, at 8.10.

Astrina Onassis, right, 13-year-old heir to the Onassis shipping fortune, was one of the bridesmaids to Eugenie Livanos, whose marriage to Nicholas Clive-Worms, a banker, was blessed at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, on Saturday.

Memorial service

Professor Kenneth Allen, former Professor of Nuclear Structure at Oxford, which was held yesterday in the Chapel of Balliol College. The Rev H.D. Dupree officiated. Mr Keith Willis, Senior Bursar and Fellow of Magdalen College, read the lesson and Dr Elspeth Cannon read from *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran. Mr Michael Allen, son, paid tribute and Professor A.E. Litherland, FRS, Professor Emeritus, Toronto University, gave an address.

Among others present were Mrs Allen (widow), Dr Christopher Allen (son), Mrs Michael Allen (daughter-in-law), William and Philip Allen (grandsons), the Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Balliol College, the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Master and other Fellows of Balliol College with many friends and former colleagues.

Deirdre Lady Mountbatten, a service of thanksgiving for the life of Deirdre Lady Mountbatten will be held on Wednesday, November 12, at 10.30am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon, Church, 11 Kensington Church Street, London, W8.

Bill Christie, A Memorial Service for Eric William Hunter Christie will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Tuesday, November 25, 1997, at 3.00pm.

Nature notes

AS THE leaves fall, the flocks of foraging titmice in the trees become easier to see. Blue tits and long-tailed tits hang upside down to get at insects under the twigs. Great tits constantly drop down to the ground to feed on the newly fallen beechmast. Coal tits are the noisiest, with their thin, explosive calls: they can be distinguished by their black cap and white nape. The tits are sometimes joined by goldcrests, nuthatches, or even a late willow warbler still lingering before going back for the winter to Africa. Short-eared owls from the Continent are arriving in salt marshes and lonely pastures along the eastern side of Britain.

Many more trees are changing colour. Field maple leaves are pink and yellow, while the heavily veined leaves of dogwood are a deep purple. Wild service leaves are a bright cinnamon pink. Rowans, or mountain ash trees, are almost bare and blackbirds are rapidly eating up the red berries. A few peacock butterflies are still on the wing. Female garden spiders are abandoning their webs to lay clusters of eggs in the evergreens.

DJM

Schools news

Leaving College To mark the College's 150th Anniversary Year in 1998 two major scholarships are to be awarded. One is open to a Sixth Form boy or girl and the other to a "Third Form boy for the duration of their time at Lancing. Examination for the Sixth Form Scholarship will take place in November 1997 and for the Third Form in Spring 1998. The award will take effect from Advent Term 1998.

Old Eboracian Association The Old Eboracian Association will be publishing a new edition of the List of Members at the end of the year. Members who have not heard from the OEA lately, or who have changed their addresses, are invited to send details, before October 31, 1997, to the Clerk, Old Eboracian Association, Eton College, Windsor, SL4 6DB. Fax: 01753 671833.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Annabel Yates and Miss Elizabeth Lubbock. Mr Daniel Bernersley was best man. The honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr A.E.H. Stratton and Miss L.J. Towler. The marriage took place on Saturday, October 18, at the Church of St Laurence, Brundall, Norfolk, of Mr Andrew Stratton, to Miss Lucy Towler.

A reception was held at Witton Old Rectory, Norwich, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr Anthony Little, Headmaster of Old Oakham School, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Old Oakhamian Club held on Saturday at the school, Mrs Jane Sly, president, was in the chair.

The Old Oakhamian Club, Captain of the Old Oakhamian Club, presided at the anniversary dinner held on Saturday evening at Guildhall, Sir Francis McWilliams, Mr Alex Hay and Mr Graham Cass also spoke.

Service dinner The King's No 2 Force OCA, Mr K.V. Moore, Chairman of the 5th King's No 2 Force Old Comrades Association, presided at the annual dinner held on Saturday at the Forte Posthouse, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Stigmund Sternberg presided.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.E.B. Barnett and Miss K.T. Woodroffe. The engagement is announced between Raymond, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ray Barnett, of Hampton-in-Arden, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Woodroffe, of Rothampton, London.

Mr N.J.A. Chapman and Miss K.G.R. de Robeck. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, second son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Chapman, of Langford, Bedfordshire, and Gumiella, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs de Robeck, of Naxos, Kilbuck, Ireland and the late Martin, 7th Baron de Robeck.

Mr R. Wynn and Miss C.L. Connell. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr Wesley Wynn, of Fitzhead, Somerset, and Mrs Evelyn Mary Wynn, of Crofton, Somerset, and Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Connell, of Bampton, Devon.

Mr S.H.R. Lubbock and Miss M.C. Yates. The marriage took place on Saturday, October 11, at St Mary's Church, Steeple Bumpstead, between Mr Stephen Henry Ralph Lubbock, son of Mr John Lubbock and Mrs Ann Powell, and Miss Melissa Caroline Yates, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Yates. The Rev Gordon Mansfield officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Annabel Yates and Miss Elizabeth Lubbock. Mr Daniel Bernersley was best man. The honeymoon is being spent abroad.

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BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

SPENCER - On 1st October to Alexandra (née Weston) and Oliver, a daughter, Elizabeth Rose Spencer, 1000.

FRANKLIN - On 18th October to Sue (née Cope) and John, a son, James Franklin, 1000.

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OBITUARIES

ROBERTO C. GOIZUETA

Roberto C. Goizueta, chairman and chief executive of the Coca-Cola Company since 1981, died in Atlanta from lung cancer on October 15 aged 65. He was born in Havana, Cuba, on November 18, 1931.

Coca-Cola is not so much a fizzy drink, more a way of life, or so its advertising campaigns would have us believe. It was certainly that for Roberto Goizueta. He devoted almost the whole of his 43-year career to its sale and manufacture, and in his 16 years as head of the Coca-Cola Company ensured that "the Real Thing" saw off all its rivals in the fiercely competitive "cola wars".

His 1981 appointment as chairman and chief executive was a surprise to many observers, but he proved ideally suited to the post. A Cuban refugee from Castro's communism, he was energetic in promoting the American dream of which Coca-Cola, thanks to brilliant marketing, had become an essential part. The company he took over was hidebound, disorganised and in danger of losing its way. With a mixture of ruthlessness and inspiration, he reasserted its supremacy in the global market, pushing corporate profits to new heights and in the process becoming hugely wealthy on his own account.

The son of a prosperous Cuban family with interests in the sugar industry, Roberto Crispino Goizueta was educated at a Jesuit college in Havana, a private preparatory school in Connecticut, and at Yale, where he read chemical engineering from 1948 to 1953. Back in Cuba he worked briefly for the family business, before joining the Coca-Cola Co in Havana as technical director in 1954.

He remained there until 1960 when, in the aftermath of Fidel Castro's communist revolution, he left to take up a job with Coca-Cola in Nassau. Leaving his family wealth behind, he settled permanently in the US in 1961, arriving in Miami with \$40 in cash and 100 Coca-Cola shares (which

would now be worth some \$3 million). Losing everything, he later said, had helped him to develop self-assurance.

At Coca-Cola, his rise through the ranks was steady but unspectacular. In 1964 he moved to the company headquarters in Atlanta and went on to hold a succession of unglamorous posts in research and development and corporate affairs before being appointed, ahead of several more high-profile rivals, to succeed J. Paul Austin as chief executive in 1981. Largely unknown outside the company, he owed his appointment to the patronage of Coca-Cola's eminence grise, the 90-year-old former chairman Robert Woodruff.

Once in post, Goizueta set about transforming the moribund company, which had seen its stock price steadily slump as its energetic rival PepsiCo gained ever more ground - at Coca-Cola's expense. Where Austin had been a reserved, retiring figure, shunning publicity and presiding over a corporate culture that was conservative to the point of complacency, the new chairman took an altogether more dynamic approach.

He sold off unprofitable parts of the Coca-Cola empire, developed new products, rethought the brand image, ruthlessly streamlined bottling and distribution, and pushed into emerging markets such as India, China and Eastern Europe. He even bought Columbia Pictures (part of its price) for \$700 million in 1982, selling it for more than \$1.5 billion to Sony some seven years later. His tactics saw his company's market value rise from less than \$5 billion in 1981 to almost \$150 billion this year.

The development of new products was perhaps his most startling - almost shocking - innovation. His predecessors had long felt that any expansion of the company's range of soft drinks would weaken the appeal of its artfully branded and instantly recognisable core product. With the successful introduction of Diet Coke in 1982, Goizueta showed that this need not be so. Other new



lines, among them the sports drink PowerAde, a fruit tea and "new age" brands such as Aquarius and Fruituosa, have since been added to the range. In 1983, however, Goizueta's passion for innovation got the better of him, prompting one of the most spectacular misadventures in the history of marketing. In response to increased competition from the sweeter Pepsi brand, he thickened with the secret, smid massive publicity, introduced "New Coke". The public

loathed it, and there was a huge drop in sales before the original recipe was reintroduced as "Classic Coke" after only three months.

Goizueta was fond of quoting the motto of another energetic American entrepreneur, Dr Scholl: "Early to bed, early to rise, work like hell and advertise." Advertising was something he understood particularly well. After all, Coke's status as "the Real Thing" had always owed more to miracles of packaging and promotion than to the legendary uniqueness of its chemical composition.

For decades Coca-Cola's marketing drive had been dedicated to selling the brand as a worldwide symbol of capitalism at its most benign: the American way of life in a distinctive, coloured bottle. International advertising strategy was the responsibility of a single US agency, who produced global campaigns on the principle of "one-sight, one-sound, one-sell".

For Goizueta such tactics were no longer enough in an

increasingly competitive world. Under his direction Coca-Cola began to tailor its marketing to the specific challenges facing different brands in different markets.

Diet Coke, for instance, was quickly repositioned as a glamorous accessory for an active healthy lifestyle, when it had seemed in danger of being marginalised as a slimming aid; it went on to capture 10 per cent of the US soft drinks market. Later, in Britain, competition for Coke from cut-price own-brand supermarket colas drew an especially fierce response, with Coca-Cola spending \$4 million on UK advertising in the run-up to Christmas 1994. Major sport events, from English football's Coca-Cola Cup to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, bolstered the company's image around the world.

In 16 years Goizueta took Coca-Cola's sales and earnings to record levels, and brought massive profits for shareholders. He was aggressive in promoting the company's stock with analysts and brokers.

His efforts brought him enormous personal wealth. In 1991, for instance, he received almost \$60 million of Coca-Cola stock on top of a salary that comfortably exceeded \$1 million and a bonus of almost \$2 million - a package which prompted protests from institutional shareholders. *Forbes* magazine recently put him 120th in its annual list of wealthy Americans, estimating his fortune at \$1.3 billion.

Under his direction, the Coca-Cola Co committed some \$50 million over a decade to educational projects through the Coca-Cola Foundation. Goizueta himself was active in his local Atlanta community, where he was a member of the boards of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and of Emory University, which renamed its business school in his honour. He had recently created the charitable Goizueta Foundation, which supported various social and educational initiatives.

He is survived by his wife Olga (Olguita), whom he married in 1953, and by two sons and a daughter.

ADIL ÇARÇANI

Adil Çarçani, Albanian Communist leader died in Tirana on October 13 aged 75. He was born on May 4, 1922.

ADIL ÇARÇANI was the last Communist Prime Minister of Albania, and a loyal and conscientious servant of the one-party state constructed by Enver Hoxha and his associates after the liberation of Albania from the Axis in 1944. For nearly fifty years he held high offices in Tirana, in a career built on his own participation in the Partisan resistance in southern Albania, where he grew up.

He was one of the generation of young southern Tosks who flocked to the Albanian Party of Labour, the Communist party, in 1943-44, on the strength of the achievements of the resistance, and his loyalty to the ideals of his youth never wavered.

After the war, he underwent some technical training in Russia, and became part of the generation of technocrats who built their careers on the close link with the Soviet Union and the construction of the great hydroelectric dams in northern Albania, which brought electrification to the hitherto medieval conditions of the country. He was also involved in the development of the mining and extractive industries, presiding over developments based on the widespread use of forced and prison labour and appalling human rights violations.

By 1956 he was Minister of Industry and Mines. The development of the pyrite mine at Spaç was a notorious example, where prisoners were often worked to death on the exposed terraces of a northern Albanian mountain. In many ways, this was the height of his career, and at that time he was widely seen, aged only 34, as a possible successor to Hoxha himself.

This promise was never fulfilled in the conditions he found. He was envisaged Çarçani did not belong to the inner circle of senior ex-Partisans around Hoxha, and his main political base was outside the Politburo. He had little knowledge of foreign affairs or defence. His

progress to the top slowed as the political zigzags of the regime began to defy any economic rationality, even within the communist framework, and his identity as a pro-Moscow technocrat became a handicap.

Although as deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers he presided over the turn from Russia to China after 1960-61, became deputy Prime Minister in 1964, and signed the main trade agreements in



Beijing in 1975, he was associated with economic stagnation and relative decline in these years. The pro-Soviet period had produced high economic growth rates for the country, if at an appalling human cost, but these were never subsequently repeated.

The break with China in 1976-78 was a further setback, and produced more stagnation. Çarçani remained at the top, becoming Prime Minister in 1982, and closely associated with the efforts of the party boss Ramiz Alia to modernise Albania while keeping the one-party state intact after Hoxha's death in 1985. But it was a hopeless task which collapsed in ruins with the overthrow of communism in 1990-92. In 1994 Çarçani received a five-year suspended jail sentence from the new Government of Dr Sali Berisha.

Married with two daughters, he was in private life a relatively approachable and informal man, compared with most other Albanian Communist leaders. A favourite recreation was spending time at his villa on the coastal beach south of Durrës.

PAUL BERNARD

Paul Bernard, film and television writer, and director, artist and designer, died on September 25 aged 68. He was born in London on June 20, 1928.

PAUL BERNARD directed many of Britain's most popular television programmes, as well as writing successfully for television and the stage. His flair as a theatre designer in the 1950s led him into television, where from the early 1960s he was well known as a reliable but innovative director.

Bernard was born into a family of staunch supporters of the Independent Labour Party, of which his grandfather, George Patterson Rose, had been one of the founder members. A sensitive head teacher recognised his pupil's artistic talent, and Bernard was plucked from elementary education to train at Ealing School of Art, where he studied painting and illustration, intent upon a career as a film production designer.

After training under Bernard Robinson at Worton Hall Studios on the film *Shop at Sly Corner*, he worked at Pinewood, Shepperton and MGM Studios. This progress was interrupted by National Service, and when he returned to civilian life his mentor, the Oscar-winner Alfred Junge, advised him that the British film industry was in so poor a state that he should turn to the theatre.

This he did, and for six years he worked with repertory theatres up and down the



country, with a brief return to MGM to work on the Gene Kelly production of *Invitation to a Dance*.

In 1958 Bernard was invited to join Granada Television as a designer. Among those he worked with, as his career blossomed, were Jeremy Isaacs, Harold Evans and Michael Parkinson. In due course Bernard was sufficiently highly regarded to go freelance, and he worked in all kinds of television, notably on *The Avengers* and *Armchair Theatre*.

In 1964 the BBC invited him to train as a television director. He began by directing some episodes of *Z Cars*, live television with film inserts, in the series that established the reputations of Brian Blessed,

Stratford Johns, Jeremy Kemp, James Ellis and Frank Windsor.

A move to ATV widened his experience enormously. As well as single plays, he directed many episodes of *Emergency Ward Ten*, and with John Cooper launched *Honey Lane*, a series about a London street market which was shot where *EastEnders* is made today.

In the light entertainment field, under Jon Scofield, he directed a number of spectaculars of *This is Tom Jones* kind, for broadcast in America as well as Britain. He worked also on documentaries, notably on *Stand Up and Be Counted*, the programme about disability which marked the introduction of the

Chronically Sick and Disabled Bill by Alf Morris, MP. He also worked on an early consumer programme, *What We Need is More Red Tape*, fronted by Bernard Levin. During all this time he made regular returns to the theatre, designing at the Arts, the Savoy and the Mayfair in London.

In 1973, long before Channel 4 made it fashionable, he formed his own production company, making industrial and training films, speculative musical programmes, and cinema films from his own original screenplays. These included *The Contract*, starring Ken Farrow, whom he had met while directing *Coronation Street*. He also directed Jon Pertwee in *Dr Who*, and his expertise in special effects resulted in his being asked to launch *The Tomorrow People* at Thames Television.

In 1983 he was in at the start of TV-am, where he directed the popular children's programme *Rub-a-Dub-Tub*. In subsequent returns to the theatre, he directed his own adaptation of Hazlitt's *Liber Amoris* at the Edinburgh Festival and on tour. His own play, *Who Are You Anyway?*, was produced at the Duke's Playhouse in Lancaster. Paul Bernard continued to paint throughout his career. He began exhibiting his work in Manchester in 1960 while at Granada Television, and more than 30 one-man exhibitions have followed.

He leaves a widow, Carol, and a daughter. Both work in television.

GODFREY DAVIS

Godfrey Davis, CBE, manuscripts scholar and archivist, died on September 27 aged 80. He was born on April 22, 1917.

GODFREY DAVIS was one of the country's most distinguished postwar archivists. He brought to his career in the field of manuscripts not only a formidable intellectual power and academic rigour but also, from his wartime experience, a commitment to public service.

Godfrey Rupert Carless Davis was the second son of H. W. C. Davis (1874-1928), Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, who had been editor of the *Dictionary of National Biography* in succession to Sir Sidney Lee. It was this tradition of providing scholarly reference tools that Godfrey was to follow. What might have been a typical north Oxford childhood, however, was shattered by the early death of his father when Godfrey was 11 years old.

Godfrey Davis went to Highgate School, and then followed his father to Balliol College, Oxford, where the organ scholar Edward Heath became a friend (and later godfather to Davis's son John). After a first degree and a graduate scholarship, he served during the war in the Devon Regiment and the Intelligence Corps, rising to the rank of captain. He would later recall an attempt to burn secret records in advance of the expected German occupation of Alexandria, only to see many of them float serenely



upwards and towards enemy lines.

In the difficult post-demobilisation job market, Davis found himself a place in the British Museum's department of manuscripts in 1947. It turned out to be well suited to his talents and inclinations, providing a framework of time-honoured conventions but also opportunities for specialisation.

He contributed extensively to successive volumes of the *Department's Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts*, but he will be remembered more for his *Medieval Cartularies of Great Britain* (1958). A major project, and still the standard work of reference, this was linked closely to his official work but also involved

much personal research and more than 5,000 miles of travel to inspect monastic volumes in local and private collections. His experience of these repositories and their sometimes eccentric custodians was to stand him in good stead later, as was the challenge of finding a way of designing the volume so as to present complex information clearly but concisely.

Davis was deputy keeper in the manuscripts department from 1961 to 1972, when he became secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts. There he succeeded Roger Ellis, under whose guidance the commission had enjoyed unprecedented growth, with the expansion of the National Register of

Archives, new publications initiatives and new calls upon it for advice. This growth continued under Davis, notably with the launch in 1982 of the *Guides to Sources for British History*, now the commission's leading series of publications.

Davis also undertook a thorough, systematic re-evaluation of the commission's objectives, and a thorough overhaul of its methods and working practices. Not all his colleagues were convinced by all he did, and there were casualties along the way, but he implemented his policies with firmness and integrity.

Godfrey Davis belonged to an age before political correctness, when colleagues could be addressed by their surnames, and the attire of female members of staff might receive adverse comment. He did not gladly suffer vanity, pretension or muddled thinking, but beneath a reserved exterior he was a man of warm feeling. A devoted family man himself, he took a personal interest in colleagues and their families. He served on many bodies, notably as honorary treasurer of the Royal Historical Society from 1967 to 1974. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1974, and was appointed CBE shortly before his retirement in 1982.

His later years were marked above all by the characteristic fortitude with which he coped first with the effects of a stroke, and then with the loss of his wife, Betty, whom he had married in 1942.

He is survived by his son and two daughters.

Church news

Provost of Derby
Canon Michael Perham, Vicar of St Andrew's, Derby, has been appointed Provost of Derby Cathedral.

Other appointments
Rev Roger Ballkwill, Vicar, Alfreton, and Rural Dean of Chalfont (Herts); to be also Priest-in-Charge of Bonington (same diocese).

Rev Tom Bodkin, Team Vicar, Aldington, St Leonard (Chichester); to be Priest-in-Charge, Bishopscote (same diocese).

Rev Denis Brazell, formerly Vicar, Reading St Agnes w St Paul (Oxford); to be Chaplain, Whitehall Chase, The Actors' Housing Trust (Gloucestershire).

Rev Michael Caddy, Team Vicar, Shirley St James the Great (Birmingham); to be also Dean of Shirley.

Rev Christopher Channer, Chaplain, Holmwood House School, Tunbridge Wells (Sussex); to be Team Vicar, Lewes (Chichester).

Rev Paul Collier, Assistant Curate, East Dulwich St John (Southwark); to be Minister, Remondsey St Hugh Charterhouse Mission Conventual District and Marston, Churchhouse Benefrinding, Same (same diocese).

Rev Robert Cooper, formerly Assistant Priest, Leeds Richmond Hill (Ripon); to be Chaplain, Chigwell School (Chelmsford).

Rev Brian Cox, Assistant Curate, Southampton Maybush (Winchester); to be Priest-in-Charge, Knights Enham St Michael and All Angels (same diocese).

Rev Reginald Dakin, formerly Rector, Littleton (London); to be Chaplain, Silena Holy Trinity (Malta & Gozo).

Rev Dr John Davey, permission to officiate (Chichester); to be Priest-in-Charge, Amberleyw North Stoke and Parham, Wiggonsholt and Greenham (same diocese).

Rev Graham Dear, Vicar, St Andrew and Bowes and Rokeby w Brignall (Ripon); to be Chaplain, HMP Garth (Blackburn).

Rev Bryan Dixon, Assistant Curate, Beverley Minster (York); to be Assistant Chaplain, HMP Durham.

Rev Anthony Douglas, Team Rector, Great and Little Coates w Bradley (Lincoln); to be Team Rector, East Ham w Upton Park (Chelmsford).

Rev Stuart Dunn, Rector, Meopham and Nurstead (Rochester); to be also Non-Residential Canon (Honorary) of Rochester Cathedral.

Rev Joy Hartenink, lecturer, Richmond-upon-Thames College (London); to be also Chaplain, Richmond-upon-Thames College.

Rev Dr Philip Heskest, Curate, Beasted w Thurnham (Canterbury); to be Vicar, Chatham St Stephen (Rochester).

Rev Judith Howes, Team Vicar, East Darlington (Durham); to be Team Rector of the benefice.

Rev David Perry, Curate, Whitbywood (Bristol); to be Priest-in-Charge, Litherland St Philip (Liverpool).

The Rev Adrian Russell, Rector, St Kessog, Auchtermadar and St James Kintill (St Andrews); to be Priest-in-Charge, Kenon Ascension (Newcastle).

The Rev William Scott, Vicar, Bourne Street St Mary, and Priest-in-Charge, Fimlico St Barnabas (London); to be also Area Dean of Westminster (St Margaret's) (same diocese).

Rev Richard Seabrook, Assistant Curate, Hawley Holy Trinity (Gloucestershire); to be Vicar, Hockley St Peter and St Paul (Chelmsford).

The Rev Philip Tait, Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies, Berkhamstead Collegiate School (St Albans); to be Priest-in-Charge, Woodthorn and Newbiggin (Newcastle).

The Rev Brian Young, Vicar, Alderley Edge, and Rural Dean of Knutsford, (Cheshire); to be also an Hon Canon of Chester Cathedral.

PROVINCIAL FRANCE

(From our Special Correspondent)

On the left bank of the Rhône, not far from the Collodière Quarter and at the junction of two very dingy streets, stand a pair of large iron gates, giving entrance to a domed building known as the Rotonde. Here are held in times of peace, balls, promenade concerts, and velodrome races, and hither in times of political excitement do turbulent spirits resort to hold public meetings and discuss what they call "the situation".

The day before yesterday red posters, signed by Richard and other members of the "Red" Committee were placarded, inviting the people to meet at the Rotonde. Subject of discussion, in large letters *La Situation Actuelle*.

The night after my arrival in Lyon I went to the Rotonde in the hopes of finding a meeting going on, but was disappointed, and I should have been present at the last assembly had not the experience which I recounted in a former letter warned me against any such attempt. I am obliged to rely, therefore, upon the information of a perfectly trustworthy person for an account of what passed. It seems that Citizen Saigone has become demoralised, and declines to come forward any more in his capacity of public agitator, so M Richard, a

ON THIS DAY

October 20, 1870

The end of the Franco-Prussian War came in January 1871 with the capitulation of the French. The scenes described in this article seem far removed from the heat of the battle.

young man of nine and twenty, represents the nation. He is said to have been a secret police agent under the Imperial Government, but it is to be observed that whenever either political party want to discredit a public man they always accuse him either of having been a secret police agent, or of being now in the pay of the Prussian Government. M Richard has both these crimes laid to his charge.

Surrounded by half a dozen of his fellow committee men and standing beneath the waving folds of a red flag, he addressed an audience of not more than 300 or 400 of whom about one third were women of the type

probably known here as *Libres Penseuses*. The proceedings were opened by a violent speech from the youthful agitator, urging the adoption of strong means to carry their point.

He was followed by a practical citizen, who proposed, *tout bonnement*, that all the old *sergeants de ville* still employed as police should be shot. Then came a Zouave in full uniform, who said that the General under whom he had been serving at Montpellier, as well as General Mazure, ought both to be shot. Feeling that his real duty lay not in serving an incompetent General in Montpellier, but in advancing to meet the enemy, he and a comrade had determined thus to advance, but upon arriving here they found to their surprise that they were both arrested. Their Zouave thought an interference with his liberty and he urged upon the meeting the propriety of shooting the officer who had ordered his arrest as well as those who had effected it.

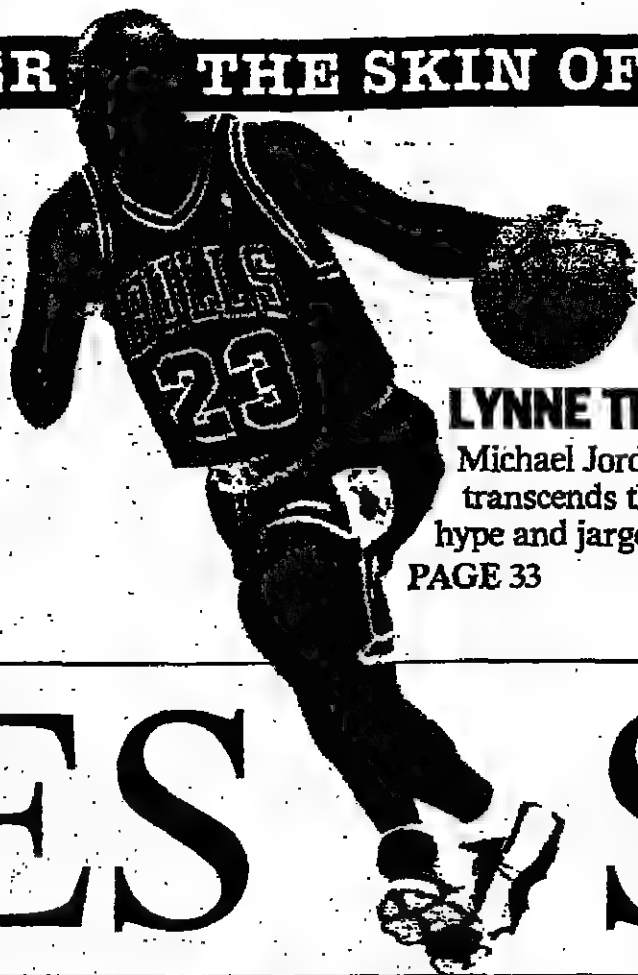
The President then read a list, which by the way, has been published in all the local papers, of the names and addresses in Lyons of all the persons employed by the late Government as secret police agents or *mouchards*. The publication of this interesting document found among the police archives has, as may be imagined, caused the instantaneous stampede of all the parties incriminated.

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



HER KIND OF TOWN

Marian Sutton shows Chicago a clean pair of heels again
PAGE 32



LYNNE TRUSS

Michael Jordan transcends the hype and jargon
PAGE 33

HUNGRY LIKE THE WOLF

Michael Calvin hears from a club chairman impatient for success
PAGE 31



SHOCK WAVES

China's swimmers are back in stormy waters
PAGE 26

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY OCTOBER 20 1997

FIRST-HALF DISPLAY BRINGS RELIEF AT WHITE HART LANE

Spurs hang on to survive endurance test

YOU might say that a moment of machismo could have cost Tottenham Hotspur this desperately needed victory. After 72 minutes, when they somewhat surprisingly led Sheffield Wednesday 3-0, Ramon Vega, Tottenham's Swiss defender, of Spanish descent, had the ball out on the right of his own area with every opportunity to make a clearance. It appeared to be beneath his dignity. Instead of backing the ball away, he dallied and lost it, enabling Benito Carboni and Lee Briscoe to work it across the box and it was bundled into the goal by the Wednesday substitute, Wayne Collins.

That was the moment when Wednesday, at last, began to fight the possibility of saving this FA Cup First Round match, which had seemed lost. Their second goal, when it arrived in the 85th minute, came bang on top of a narrow escape at their end.

Sinton crossed from the left, Fenn, a very lively substitute for Dominguez, got in a close-range header, but Pressman, who had disgraced himself on the first Tottenham goal, made some kind of amends with a fine point-blank save. Straight down to the other end went Wednesday's Pemberton, who had been switched into a more attacking role on the left flank. In the second half, carried the ball on and might have been expected to shoot. Instead, he put over an accurate low cross that Di Canio brought down and drove right-footed between Walker and his near post — something, alas, which seems to keep happening to poor Walker, whether here or at Wembley.

Wednesday, though full of belief now, ran out of ammunition and Tottenham clung on for their first victory in seven games. The relief around White Hart Lane was tangible. As Ginola, Tottenham's French international, who was gloriously effective in what is surely his true position in attacking midfield, said: "The first one was very important, the one from José [Dominguez], because we needed to come quickly in the game, and that's what we did."

That goal came after only six minutes. The tiny Portuguese winger came in from the right, attacked the defence and shot with his left foot. Somehow, Pressman, the Wednesday goalkeeper, who seemed to have the shot well covered, allowed the ball to squirm out of his grip and go under his body into the net.



By Brian Glanville

Dominguez, however, had barely another quarter of an hour to enjoy his success. He went off injured and was replaced by Fenn, not remotely the same kind of player, but his contribution turned out to be a large one. He fought for every ball and it was his excellent pass that sent Spurs away to score their third goal.

Tottenham's second goal came in the 39th minute, only moments after they had squandered a far more clear-cut opportunity. When Campbell's ball beat the Wednesday

Betting Inquiry 5
Newcastle drabbed 28
United's pride 29
Charlton held 31
Passing the buck 39

offside trap, Armstrong was clean through. In the event, he was not fast enough and Newsome got in a desperate tackle to slide the ball for a corner.

Luck, however, was about to smile on Spurs and Armstrong, and Campbell played a part in it again. He succeeded in forcing down Ginola's corner, although his boot appeared to be dangerously high. The ball reached Armstrong and he hooked the ball into the net.



Francis delighted

David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, suggested afterwards that there was "an element of doubt in their second goal. There was a foot very high. I thought our players lost a bit of heart at that stage."

Ginola, particularly in the first half, was emphatically the star of the show. There is no doubt about his latent talents and, in this game, they were convincingly on show. He was the inspiration and the final executioner by scoring Tottenham's third goal. Taking Fenn's pass, he roared away down the right and crossed to Armstrong. When the ball broke back to him again, he struck a fierce, curving left-foot shot. Tottenham were 3-0 ahead and there was little evidence of the nailbiting drama to come.

Despite the heartache and the thousand natural shocks of the late second half, though, it was a happier day for Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, back on the bench after missing the home defeat by Derby County in the Coca-Cola Cup last Wednesday night because he had injured his back playing with his children.

"We kept giving the ball away at times in the second half," he said. "It was very much a Jekyll-and-Hyde performance by us. Obviously I was delighted by the win. It was very important to us today; it would have been nice to win 3-1. I thought the supporters today were tremendous. It's a good club, I'm proud to be the manager, but what it needs is success. We've got to keep performing like the first half, not the second, and if we do, they'd back us."

The nervous Spurs supporters found something to cheer in the final minutes when Darren Anderton, at last, found his way out of the Tottenham treatment-room to make his first appearance of the season in place of the gallant Fenn. It was a positive move by Francis and seemed to give heart to the rest of the Tottenham team.

In fact, they could have scored again, at the death. Ginola's left-wing corner was returned by Fox, Armstrong tried an acrobatic attempt at goal but Nolan headed the ball out from under the bar.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-0): 1. Walker — S. Carr (goal), C. Coleman, B. Smith, R. Vega, S. Campbell — R. Fox, D. Howell, G. Ginola, A. Senior, J. Edgar — C. Armstrong, J. Dominguez (sub: N. Fenn, 20; sub: D. Anderton, 88).
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (2-0): K. Pressman — D. Stannard, G. G. Whitham, S. G. Newsome, D. Walker — I. Nolan, M. Pemberton, J. Magilton, P. Rudi (sub: W. Collins, 46), S. Carson (sub: O. Devlin, 87) — B. Carboni, P. Di Canio. Referee: J. Wiles.



Ginola's fierce left-foot shot puts Tottenham 3-0 ahead against Sheffield Wednesday yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

"Look boss, if we fail to score again today, we'll play naked next week. Right lads?"

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FROM THE EXPERTS**

Stubbs brings stability to Celtic's challenge

Injuries are football's version of an opinion poll. Some players can lie stricken on the turf and the supporters will only grouch over the delay in restarting the match. Then there are the favoured members of the team. Should one of them be flattened, it takes the perimeter barriers to prevent the crowd from gathering round like anxious relatives.

If Alan Stubbs' head had not been throbbing at the time, he might have relished his new popularity. During the first half of Celtic's 2-1 victory over Hearts of Midlothian at Tynecastle, he sustained a blow to the face and, later, a blow to the leg. On each occasion, it appeared

possible that the Celtic centre half might have to be replaced.

Stubbs' recovery was a matter of jubilation for his club's followers, but the concern for his wellbeing is a recent development. Although the crowd's affection for certain footballers is genuine, it is also underpinned by self-interest. Fans are most concerned with the welfare of the figures that can ensure healthy results.

With Stubbs typifying an unrepentant Celtic defence, it looked impossible for Hearts to score until Tom Boyd's sketchy header introduced a moment of confusion that left the ball at Colin Cameron's feet in front of the target. The

goal reduced the deficit to 2-1, but the Edinburgh side never hinted that they were capable of an equaliser.

Although a transfer can be conducted swiftly, there can be a long delay before the signing's full talents are delivered. When Stubbs was acquired by Tommy Burns, the previous Celtic manager, from Bolton Wanderers for £3.5 million in the summer of 1996, he became one of the most expensive centre halves in the world and supporters of the Glasgow club devoted the close season to gloating.

None of them was liable to admit that, in fact, they knew precious little about Stubbs. The memory bank was barely in credit and, at best, the

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

recollections were of the FA Cup in 1994 when Bolton beat Arsenal and Aston Villa, with the defender's skimming free kick delivering the only goal of the latter tie. That year, there had even been talk of Stubbs playing for England.

Celtic, in consequence, were wholly unprepared for the injuries and errors that took up much of his first season in Scotland. Only now, when he is in good form and need not fear that explanations will be treated as excuses, does Stubbs admit how hard he found it to acclimatise to Glasgow. Having been cosseted at Bolton, he was not ready for the scalding condemnation that erupted from Old Firm rivalry.

There were family problems too and those have only slowly been overcome. No matter how much money is bid in the transfer market, certainty is not for sale. The twists of circumstance and the nuances of character ensure

that footballers are never covered by warranty. Unpredictability, though, also ensures that players are not to be written off lightly.

Celtic may be pleasantly surprised to find that Stubbs, after all, is equipped to add acumen to the defence. The Englishman has been assisted by the arrival, from West Ham United, of Marc Rieper, since the muscular newcomer plays with a harsh simplicity that often leaves Stubbs in possession of the ball and free to carry play forward.

Like Stubbs, Celtic have made sudden progress and the orderly approach of Wim Jansen, the head coach, promises that there will be conviction to their challenge

in the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

Nonetheless, some routines are hard to break. Rangers may have been castigated for several weeks, but they have still hauled themselves to the top of the table. On Saturday, they defeated Dunfermline Athletic 7-0 and Marco Negri's four goals took his wonderful, if outlandish, total for the season to 22.

In scoring twice, though, it was Paul Gascoigne who engaged the supporters' emotions and increased their agitation. His future will remain in doubt as long as English clubs express interest and Rangers refuse to insist that he honours a contract signed only a few months ago.

Kinsella makes a point for Charlton

Charlton Athletic 1
Stoke City 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TWO months into the season, the top of the Nationwide League first division is starting to take shape. Long odds could have been obtained on Charlton Athletic or Stoke City being among the early front-runners but there they are, mixing it with the bigger boys and deservingly so.

Whether they can retain such lofty positions, Charlton are fourth, Stoke seventh — is a moot question. As their squads are stretched to the limit, the money men of Middlesbrough, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Queens Park Rangers might just pass them by.

At The Valley yesterday, Charlton and Stoke presented their credentials. It was not one of their better days, with more graft than craft and too much possession wasted, but there were enough glimpses of individual ability to bode well for the future — most notably, Keen's calm assurance in the Stoke midfield and Andrade's energy up front; Robinson's trickery on the Charlton flanks and Kinsella's elongated runs from deep.

"The last thing I wanted was for Stoke to score first," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "I knew they would be very difficult to break down if that happened, and so it proved, but we got back into it by playing good, patient football, not just by lumping the ball into the box. That pleased me."

After a much-of-a-muchness first half, in which neither goalkeeper was seriously tested, Stoke went ahead in the fifth minute. Kavanagh passed to the edge of the area and Wallace unleashed a fierce, 25-yard drive that flew past Peterson, who hardly moved.

Charlton responded with vigour. Muggleton having to dive low to keep out a long-range effort from Holmes. Robinson time and again attacked along the right wing, sending over a series of crosses, but Stoke held firm. "I thought we defended very well," Chic Bates, the Stoke manager, said.

Twelve minutes from the end, the ramparts fell. Muggleton seemed to have covered Kinsella's shot but it deflected off Wallace and looped over his head. It was Kinsella's first goal of the season and a possible reminder to Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, that he is still available to play for his country.

Of the pair, Stoke — with several injury worries might find it the most difficult to maintain their progress.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A. Peterson — M. Bates, R. Bates, P. Chapple, A. Barnes, S. Newton (sub: M. Holmes, S. Jones, M. Jones, M. Kinsella, J. Robinson, S. Jones (sub: B. Allen, 74), C. Mendonca. STOKES CITY (4-4-1-1): G. Muggleton — A. Pickering, L. Seperson, S. Taylor, C. Bates, G. Kavanagh, K. Keen, R. Wallace, R. Forsyth — J. Kinsella (sub: P. Mason, 85), G. McKendrick (sub: C. Wright, 89). Referee: R. Farnham.

Michael Calvin at Molineux sees a win that buys time for chairman and manager

Uneasy truce at the house that Jack built

The roar of relief, amplified by a maze of graffiti-scarred alleyways behind the Billy Wright Stand, was timeless. It carried 600 yards from Molineux into Dunsell Road and the back garden of Rosedale, an old red-brick house that has been redevelped as a refuge for social misfits.

Sir Jack Hayward was born there in the spring of 1923. He was weaned on Wolverhampton Wanderers and the accompanying sounds of mass celebration and communal commiseration. Age excuses the romantic assertion that, with a following wind, he could smell the embrocation from the dressing-rooms.

The football club enshrines seminal childhood memories, such as crawling beneath a turnstile to watch an FA Cup tie with Grimsby Town in 1930. He and his cousin hung from a corrugated iron fence until their hands bled. But it is also a symbol of his success and the enduring power of reciprocal loyalty. A recent survey ranked him as the 117th richest person in Britain. The £40 million he has given to Wolves, in a vain attempt to buy a place in the FA Cup, Premier League, is a fraction of the fortune earned in property development and the offshore investment industry.

On Saturday, making one of his intermittent returns from his exile in the Bahamas, he was transported back through the generations. When Wolves had completed a scintillating 2-1 victory over Swindon Town he was as content as any schoolboy, but the strains of a hectic match were obvious.

"I had a pacemaker fitted here 18 months ago," he said, tapping his chest. "It got more use in the first 45 minutes today than ever before. Football involves you physically and mentally. You know the players. You know their wives. They are friends, and it makes a tremendous difference not to see them suffer."

Frustration, a by-product of tradition and unfulfilled ambition, suffuses Molineux. The stadium, which resembled a ruin during the dark days of bankruptcy, a decade ago, is immaculate. The supporters retain a touching faith in the certainty of progress, even if they need constant reassurance that mid-table mediocrity in the Nationwide League first division is a passing phase.

The pressure on Sir Jack to sack



Sir Jack Hayward may wield the power at Wolverhampton Wanderers, but he is a fan at heart. Photograph: Stuart Harrison

Mark McGhee, his manager, reached a crescendo after the midweek Coca-Cola Cup defeat away to Reading. Self-serving speculation that either Ron Atkinson or David Platt would come to the rescue merely added to the manufactured sense of crisis. "It's my fault," Sir Jack insisted as he sipped tea in a quiet corner of the boardroom before the match on Saturday. "I'm the culprit because I'm impatient. At 74, years of age I've not got too much time to go. My ambition is to lift the FA Cup. Soon I won't be strong enough to hold the bloody thing."

"I always try to keep a sense of

perspective, but I'm dying to have my moment of glory like Jack Walker or Sir John Hall. We've put similar sums into our clubs and they've had their great hour in the sun. I've not."

He smiled, illuminating a kindly, owlish face. He became chairman only six weeks ago and his instinct, that change could be counter-productive, survived three successive defeats. His dilemma, that to say so publicly would be misinterpreted as the dreaded word of confidence, was difficult to resolve.

He convened a meeting of staff and players on Friday, called for solidarity and sanctioned pro-

gramme notes stressing his "unequivocal" support for McGhee. A direct plea for understanding from the fans, they were signed, simply, "Your fellow supporter, Jack."

The subsequent four-hour board meeting was designed to emphasise the long-term philosophy of the club. The new chief executive, and a new five-year contract for Robbie Keane, the Irish midfielder player.

"You get so much advice in this job, all of it conflicting," he said. "For everyone who tells you to sack the manager there is another supporter urging you to keep faith. It

shows how much everyone cares about the club. They live it."

The average supporter pays his money. Why should he not have his say? After all, he puts several hundred pounds into the club every year and so probably puts a greater percentage of his wealth into it than I do.

"People say I'm to blame for restoring the ground before the team, but how could we persuade a player of quality to come here when the dressing-rooms were under water whenever it rained? How could they not notice the rats running around or the dank musty smell of the offices? We're now a

well-managed, profitable club. All we need is a winning team."

The pressure applied by the situation was etched on McGhee's taut face as he prowled the touch-line. As his chairman said: "Being a football manager is the last job I would have in the world. I don't just feel for him. I feel for his family."

It hardly helped that the match had more mood swings than a convention of schizophrenics. Dougie Freedman needed only 11 minutes of his Wolves debut to score, but Chris Hay equalised from the penalty spot after Steve Bull was sent off for his violent reaction to the two-footed foul that resulted in the dismissal of Lee Collins.

Swindon, a team built in the combative image of their manager,

'My ambition is to lift the Cup. Soon I won't be strong enough to hold the bloody thing'

Steve McMahon, were reduced to nine men when Casper was dismissed for his second bookable offence. Curle's near-post header, augmented by Simpson's outrageous 40-yard chip, ensured that joy was unconfined.

"You're gonna get the sack," the Swindon fans chanted, out of spite rather than common sense. The home crowd responded by spitting out a single word: "McGhee". It was more of a growl than a chant. "We needed a good win like this to restore morale," Sir Jack said. "I think the messages asking for solidarity helped. Mark has admitted his failings and people tend to take notice of that."

When Sir Jack went back to Rosedale, for old time's sake, he asked a bemused nurse to allow him into the back garden. "It's so much smaller than it seemed when I was a boy," he said. But you can still hear every roar, every moan, from Molineux. Lovely, isn't it?"

Nomads lost and miles from home

Brighton 1
Exeter City 3

By IVO TENNANT

EXETER CITY have an incomparable record away from home in the Nationwide League this season. Their manager, Peter Fox, thinks it is the best of any club in the world, but that is another matter. Whatever, five victories in six matches is quite something for a team that, at the start of the season, was expected to finish somewhere near the foot of the third division.

Brighton and Hove Albion were not merely expected to be at the bottom with them; everybody knew they would be there. For a team with such a proud past to have to play in another county is bad enough. A move to Woking, as is envisaged, would merely mean going from Kent to Surrey; it must be painful that the one club in Sussex that could have permanently accommodated them, Crawley Town, have no intention of doing so.

What is more, Crawley have a new stadium. Brighton would have been prepared to pay for the necessary adjustments but the local council, which owns the ground, is not interested. So Woking it will have to be, followed, perhaps, by somewhere farther away.

On the pitch, Gillingham's pitch. Brighton gave away goals through sloppy defend-

ing. In the past, the supporters would have reacted by hurling abuse and even fireworks at David Bellotti, the reviled chief executive. But he has gone now. The crowd of 2,210 were simply stupefied by the warm sunshine. Even the meeting between Darlington and Doncaster Rovers, the bottom two clubs in the division, attracted more.

Romney, who is in his second spell with Exeter, scored the first of his two goals when Ormerod was too slow to react to Morris's back-pass. He then scored from the penalty spot early in the second half after Allan had crudely brought down Black, whom he was shepherding towards the byline.

Brighton had their chances. Maskell, indeed, had two in the opening minute, one of which was headed off the line by Fry. He had a further shot, a curling drive, tipped away by Bayes in the second half. Four minutes later, Gale added a third for Exeter with a volley on the edge of the penalty area from Williams's cross.

Reinets deflected goal 11 minutes from the end was too late to affect the outcome or alter the impression that Brighton's nomadic story is winding to an inescapable end.

BRIGHTON (4-4-2): M. Connors — J. Hargrove, M. Morris, D. Allen, C. Mayo — P. Armstrong, J. Minson, J. Westcott, V. Galloway (sub: R. Palmer, 67min) — C. Maskell, 1. Reints. Referee: S. Bennett.

Government set to tackle hooligans

Rob Hughes on moves at last by the Sports Minister to curb fans' criminal excesses

A last British Government seems ready to take responsible action to prevent hooligans from disrupting England's reputation overseas. If anything good could come from the evil aftermath of that sad night in Rome, it must be that the forces of authority in effect quarantine the thugs who, over the past 20 years, have marauded in cities abroad to commit violence and to get away with acts that have been virtually policed out of this country.

Tony Banks, on whom it has been open season since he was appointed to the Ministry of Guddies, on Saturday pledged himself and the Prime Minister to an all-out

assault on the hooligans. "The Prime Minister made it clear that, at the end of November, he wants a strategy for France," said Banks, speaking of the inevitable collision awaiting England supporters from the French riot police at the 1998 World Cup.

In contrast to the naivety of David Mellor, using his BBC chatline to accuse Italian police of barbarity and refusing to accept evidence that England's unwashed were committing indiscriminate violations in Rome for days before their provocation

aroused the police to equally indiscriminate baton charges. Banks acknowledged: "There are some very serious people out there, troublemakers attaching themselves to the England team. There is no way we will allow them to spoil the World Cup; that would also spoil England's bid for 2006. If they want to take on the power of State, only the State will ultimately win."

Banks, who when in Rome deliberately chose to sit next to an Italian journalist rather than anyone from England,

has thus surely voiced the only solution. We must prevent decent fans from being assailed abroad, but must also act against the criminals.

The Minister admits that there are 400 exclusion orders for football-related violence in operation, but only six restriction orders preventing those offenders from travelling out of this country. It is time that the civil liberties defenders take a back seat time to use the full force of Government authority to prevent those hundreds of so-called fans from leaving these shores.

We, the majority of citizens, must now ensure that there is no going back for the Prime Minister and the Minister for Sport.

Familiarity breeds content for Taylor

Watford 0
Millwall 1

By BILL EDGAR

THE Millwall chants of "no one likes us" that filled Vicarage Road on Saturday might once have struck a chord with Graham Taylor. But no more.

For Taylor, whose feat of taking Watford from the fourth division to top flight runners-up and earned him an ill-fated spell as manager of England, has retrodden the yellow brick road to Elton John's welcoming Nationwide League club and found there's no place like home.

And familiarity has bred the contentment of a place at the top of the second division. Sadly for Taylor, however, he found Millwall unwilling to play the role of cowardly Lions as they fought off a late assault to inflict Watford's first home defeat of the season.



Taylor: forgiving mood

"I thought we showed a lot of guts," Billy Bonds, the Millwall manager, said. "The last 20 minutes were a bit of an onslaught but we showed great character."

At the heart of Millwall's rearguard action was Brian Law, the 27-year-old centre back, who was forced to quit football through injury five years ago. Two years later, having recovered fitness and paid back the insurance money he had collected, Law had his career revived by Taylor at Wolves, where he stayed for three seasons before moving to Millwall.

Taylor was in a mood to forgive his players afterwards, pointing out: "It is the first time that they've really disappointed me this season, so that's fair enough I suppose."

The only goal came in the 37th minute through a low shot from the edge of the area by Paul Shaw, who joined Millwall from Arsenal for £500,000 last month.

Nevertheless, Watford are in good shape. Elton John, whose deeds as chairman recently won him the freedom of the town, believes Taylor's return has meant "the heart of the club is beating soundly again".

WATFORD (4-4-2): A. Chambers — N. Gibbs (sub: S. Palmer, 70min), R. Page, K. Miller, T. Mooney (sub: D. Thomas, 78) — S. Slater (sub: G. Nott-Williams, 50), M. Hyde, R. Johnson, P. Kennedy — J. Lee, R. Rosenthal.

MILLWALL (4-4-2): N. Spink — R. Norman, A. McLeary, B. Law, K. Brown — P. Allen, P. Shaw, B. Bonds, M. Bates (sub: M. Doyle, 83) — K. Grant (sub: D. Savage, 83), P. Wilkinson. Referee: A. Butler.

Crawley dent Chappell's Trophy record

Crawley Town 2
Kingstonian 1

By WALTER GAMMIE

FIVE months ago, Geoff Chappell, as manager of Woking, lifted the FA Umbro Trophy at Wembley for the third time in four years. On Saturday, his Kingstonian side lost in the first qualifying round at the resident new Broadfield Stadium.

It was a tough defeat to take for a man hired from the Vauxhall Conference back to the Isthmian League by a four-year contract. Kingstonian had belatedly shaken a sterile first half to life as Patterson

and Flemming wasted good chances. They then went ahead after half-time when Akomuah burst through the middle and struck a left-foot shot past Hunwick.

Garland hit a free kick against a post, but Crawley, of the Dr Martens League, did not threaten Kingstonian's superiority until Patterson was sent off after collecting a second yellow card when not retreating at a free kick.

Crawley immediately equalised when Hawthorne's fine cross from the left was met at the far post by Mackie and they took the lead with a penalty by Riley after Evans brought down Kirkland. The finale was frantic. Akomuah

hit the underside of the bar with a shot on the turn, Abbey, on the break, was foiled by John's legs. Evans's header was blocked by a flying Hunwick and Riley, with a locked knee, left on a stretcher.

Chappell was furious with the referee, heartened by his side's commitment and perturbed by a mounting injury list that has denied him an entire forward line. Ndah, Dennis and, most notably, Leworthy, who is expected to miss six weeks after a cartilage operation. A defeat for Dagenham and Redbridge that reined in their runaway gallop at the head of Isthmian League was the good news.

Billy Smith, the Crawley

manager, could afford a wry smile. He had overcome his worst fear — the threat from Akomuah. He brought the forward through the youth sides at Cusshington Athletic, developed him as the shining light of "his season and five matches" in charge at Kingstonian, and covets him still. A recent inquiry, Smith said, with eyebrows raised, elicited an asking price of £70,000.

CRAWLEY TOWN (4-4-2): C. Hamrick — J. Mackie, M. Piller, A. Riley, J. Gregory — P. Perry, P. Garland, M. Hawthorne, S. Evans (sub: J. Kirkland, 88min) — C. Whittington (sub: B. Jobey, 49), J. Wenden (sub: M. Jones, 49).

KINGSTONIAN (5-5-2): J. John — T. Evans, L. Wye, M. Crawley, D. Hooper, K. Raiting, G. Foster, G. Patterson, C. Luffel — Akomuah, D. Flemming (sub: D. Smith, 67), Referee: P. March.

Bowled over as end-to-end drama unfolds

When a sport takes up a significant part of *Grandstand* and yet struggles to make a single paragraph in the Sunday papers, something odd is clearly going on. It was indoor bowls, which for years has been telling us what a young and energetic sport it is, only to find its newly revived open championship is sponsored by Bupa Care Homes. After all that hard work, too.

That said, it is only on *Grandstand*, when one's expectations are still for something outdoor and vigorous, that indoor bowls looks seriously out of place. For the rest of last week, it propped up BBC2 afternoon schedules as effectively as any snooker tournament, while the final yesterday was a cracker. And to think I started the week not knowing who Les Gillett was.

By the close of play yesterday, I knew a little more. He is 26 but looks older, once harboured ambitions to be a driving instructor and was only at the Preston Guild Hall because he had won four qualifying matches at Blackpool. As Dougie Donnelly politely put it yesterday afternoon, after Gillett had beaten his fourth world champion of the week: "Where have you been — with the greatest respect, most of us have never heard of you?" Practising, presumably.

Aware of the problem that the BBC has filling its live sports schedule, the bowls authorities have worked hard

to deliver a sport that makes for good television. As either David Rhys Jones or Jimmy Davidson, the lead commentators, would patiently explain from time to time, the 21-up set had gone, replaced by a seven-up, best-of-five-sets format that could produce a winner in well, that's still anybody's guess.

On Saturday evening, for instance, David Gourlay's semi-final against Andy Thomson lasted almost four hours, with Gourlay recovering from two sets to one down, and 6-1 and set shot against him in the fourth. I remember it clearly, because that is when I switched over, assuming Thomson had won.

At the other end of the timescale, if Gourlay had contin-

ued at the speed he began the final, the entire match could have been settled inside 45 minutes. As it was, it took Gillett roughly twice as long to come back from losing the first end 4-0 and recover from a nightmare mistake at the end of the third set that Rhys Jones and his co-commentator, Mal Hughes, took a couple of seconds to spot.

The camera caught it, though, which is why the most



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

memorable replay of the afternoon was not one of Gourlay's extraordinary run of defeat-defeating drives but of Gillett conceding the set by kicking away his opponent's bowl, only to discover — too late — that he himself still had a shot to play. A relieved Gillett later explained to Donnelly that there had been "a lot of excitement out there".

A week ago I might not have believed him, but by now I had

seen enough to know that the revised, telegraphic format does ensure a regular supply of drama. On Friday afternoon, for instance, Gillett had also supplied it when he took on the reigning world champion, Hugh Duff. With Gillett leading two sets to love, Duff saved the match with a full house. "Is that a turning point for Duff?" asked a voice that was either Bell or Hughes — it is difficult to tell their voices apart. One end later came the answer: no.

Chrysalis Sport, the same company that does Formula One for TV, has been producing indoor bowls for the BBC for some years and has it pretty much down to a fine art by now. The camera-work is straightforward but effective,

with a frequently used picture-in-picture effect allowing us to follow both the course of the bowl and its deliverer's emotions at the same time. As is customary at all sports events now, one camera's job is to pick out friends and relations of players, sitting in the audience. As is not customary, however, is how cleverly the cameras avoided any wide shots of the audience itself. Was this because of the handful of empty seats that would occasionally creep into the background, or something to do with the average age of those there?

Certainly from the one or two glimpses we were granted, indoor bowls appears to be a sport still in transition — contested by ever younger

players, but watched by an audience best described as mature. No fools, these sponsors, are they?

The commentary style is also well judged. Although there is a slight tendency to get bogged down in the internal politics of bowls — if we heard about the Professional Bowls Association once, we heard it a hundred times — both Rhys Jones and Davidson provide regular recaps of the rules.

A couple of afternoons in their company and you'll be talking jack tactics and carpet speeds with the best of them. Passing on that illusion of inside knowledge is what good commentary on lesser-known sports is all about. All round, a good effort — especially by Gillett.

Skywalking, palming, bank-shots . . . basketball's finest leave no word undunked in Paris match

Bulls hit town for lesson in jargon

It seems to me, I opened airtily to the chap beside me (who happened to be a scout for the National Basketball Association), "that after his pump fake, Michael Jordan buries his jumper when he's already stopped skywalking. Which is the secret of his success, I suppose?"

The NBA scout shook his head and for the umpteenth time that day drew a diagram on a scrap of paper. Here we were at the Palais Omnisports at Bercy in Paris, ignoring a beautiful autumn day to sit inside a hideously overlit sports hall and watch the Chicago Bulls beat the world at basketball in the McDonald's championship. It had been an instructive day. I had seen Italians beat Spanish and French lose to Argentinians — and learnt the entertaining fact that virtually all their players hailed from Yugoslavia. In the final (Bulls versus Olympiakos Piraeus) only one player in the Piraeus team had the right to be called Greek.

I had also studied a glossary of NBA terms and was (see above) getting the hang of them. "Burying a jumper" has nothing to do with disposing of unwanted Christmas presents, as you might suspect. Oh yes, the price of the European ticket had been very well justified, indeed.

Now it was time for the scout to set me straight about the aerial trajectory of the most famous sportsman in the world. Apparently it was wrong to think that Jordan shot while descending. He sighed, patiently. "When he releases the ball he's at the top of his jump," he insisted, as the incredible Jordan leapt and scored for the umpteenth time. "Is he?" I said, unconvinced. "You see, I've seen a lot of basketball today . . ." The scout looked as though he might break his pencil. "He just looks like he's on the way down, because he's falling away." At which point I decided to stop arguing.

Good heavens, there's a lot to

LYNNE TRUSS



learn in this job. But luckily, on this particular occasion, there was lots of time to learn it. What nobody tells you about basketball is that, yes, it's fast and exciting and played by gigantic men whose shoe size is only one step short of luggage, but it's also (as played by NBA rules) the longest 46 minutes you will experience in your life, because it's forever stopping and restarting. I never thought I'd congratulate myself on being able to watch 45 minutes of football all in one go, but compared with watching basketball, it's like sitting down to read *A Dancer to the Music of Time* with just the one cup of cocoa.

Every time the play gets interesting in basketball, somebody calls time-out, the clock stops and you get precisely 90 seconds of acrobatics (why?), a pop music introduction (truncated), aerobic jazz dancing or mascot clowning, while boys mop sweat from the floor. This perpetual start-stop is perhaps intended to enhance the drama (and it fits the American television commercials), but it is

sorely irritating. In my naivety, I had assumed a game of four 12-minute quarters would be finished comfortably in an hour. Well, that's Old Maths for you. Thank goodness I hadn't ordered a cab for half past eight.

But at least, I now appreciated why an American friend of mine (who came with me to Fulham FC the other week) laughed when I complained I couldn't see a scoreboard. "I think we might be able to remember the number of goals," he jeered when the score stood at 1-0. At basketball, you see, you are continually checking the clock, monitoring the score and ingesting as many statistics as you have access to.

By the end of the final on Saturday (which the Bulls won 104-78), I was agog to discover that



Caught on the rebound: the incomparable Jordan leads the Chicago Bulls to victory against Olympiakos Piraeus in the McDonald's championship final

Jordan had scored 27 points, consisting of 11 field goals (22 points) and five free throws. Hoorah! He'd attempted two three-pointers (but not scored them) while also achieving one offensive rebound and four defensive rebounds (totalling five).

Fascinating, eh? Statistics.

Rules. In advance of this championship, I had nodded on the train over a table of NBA-FIBA comparative regulations, circling their piddly differences with a resigned expression. But in the heat of contest, all this piddle mattered tremendously. Non-American players are accustomed to 30 seconds' possession before attempting to score the "shot clock" rule, whereas the McDonald's chooses the NBA

option of 24 seconds. Non-Americans kept dithering and running out of time. Meanwhile, the NBA does not allow "zone defence" (defending in a general way, rather than marking an opponent). Zone defence was permitted on Saturday, so — well, it meant the rest of the world got a look-in.

The Americans were bound to win, however. In the ten-year history of this event, the NBA team (assorted Knicks, Bucks, Nuggets and Rockets) has emerged victorious on every occasion. In press conferences last week, Jordan said he'd hate to let the side down by being the first NBA team not to win — but it was just talk. The miracle is that FIBA, the world governing body, continues to turn up for its ritual pasting. I don't think I would, if I were them. But

then personally I had no idea that basketball was so inexplicably big in Yugoslavia, or that Michael Jordan was mega-famous globally — "Michael, Michael" the French crowd roared on Saturday whenever he was having a little rest.

His incontestable supremacy was aided by the non-attendance of his team-mates, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman. People who know about basketball sorely missed those two, but Jordan's talent stood out all the more.

Even as a basketball ignoramus, I was amazed by his ability to run, soar and make plays; and, by all accounts, he wasn't even trying. Marked by two or three men, Jordan could simply reach out an arm, Twizzle-fashion, to catch the ball one-handed ("Palming," the scout told me, and I scribbled it

down). Having palmed it, Jordan could then deliver the ball to his team-mates, who were running free elsewhere.

At one point, positioned under the hoop, he reached out and scored backwards with a bank-shot, making it look easy. Sorry to get so technical, incidentally. Bank-shot. Hark at me.

If only they would play continuously it would be a pretty good game. But to watch it with all its interruptions is like watching a movie when the projector keeps breaking down and is too bloody tiring. In the FIBA system, they play two 30-minute halves, with only two time-outs per half. How miserable that the NBA doesn't do the same. I'm sure it doesn't stop anybody burying jumpers, which is the main thing, after all.

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Italian view of England fans

From Signor Marco Molla

Sir, I would like to describe what happened in Rome last weekend because there may have been some misreporting.

I used to work at the gates of the Olympic Stadium and I live in the centre of Rome (between the Colosseum and the station). I don't think your readers would be happy walking between hundreds of drunk English young men, screaming and insulting normal people, perhaps because they are Italians. I don't think they would be happy either seeing people climbing on monuments, thinking they can do what they want, just because it's not their own country.

I don't think it's right that someone like me should be insulted just because I was trying to explain where the gates of the stadium were and how to get there. Also because I did this in English (if the game was in England do you think someone would help the strangers in Italian?) and with a large proportion of the people drunk.

I think that a newspaper like yours would be more

interested in the truth than defending these kinds of people.

Best regards,

MARCO MOLLA

Via P.Togliatti 139,

Rome 00122, Italy.

mistig@usa.net

Coca-Cola Cup

From Mr Richard Wilson

Sir, The controversy surrounding recent ties in the so-called "Coca-Cola" League cup reveals it to be the meaningless competition that it is. I do not mean to imply that a lack of European qualification has reduced its status, merely that since the Premiership has become a separate league it is no longer a "League Cup" per se.

There is now a glorious opportunity to streamline the competition and restrict it to the first, second and third divisions plus the Conference, whose own league cup (being a one-division league) consists of competing against the same clubs they are playing every week.

The need for two-leg earlier rounds is arguable, but seeing could be abolished. This may mean a lower likelihood of drawing a "money-spinning big name" but with increased possibilities of progression in-

Sensible notion to ban the dirty tackle

From Mr Magnus K. Moodie

Sir, Seeing that Fifa wish to abolish the tackle in Association Football makes me realise how far the strategic thinking is in the game of rugby. I am something of a pioneer in this field having last made a tackle in 1973 when my shorts got dirty. I am sure the need to keep clean kit and thus happy kit sponsors is a Fifa priority.

Another reason I decided from the Victorian bestiality of laying hands on my opponents was the intelligence, vouchsafed by a close friend who is now a dealer in the City of London, that I could "catch tetanus from earthworms". So on both health and aesthetic grounds I abandoned tackling forthwith.

I am pleased to say that my team has this

season joined me in this progressive effort and we have the proud record of played six, won nil, for 30, against 175, but we do have nice clean kits and no players have reported symptoms of incipient lockjaw.

So, while once again claiming for rugby (football) the credit of forward thinking, I applaud the efforts of Mr Sepp Blatter, secretary general of Fifa, to turn the rough-house of soccer into a form of netball played with feet, which will doubtless be highly marketable, sponsor-friendly and dull as ditchwater.

Yours sincerely,

MAGNUS K. MOODIE,

60 Columbia Road, Edinburgh 4.

Football Association Hand-

book. What is missing is the inability of officials to enforce the punishment.

My wife and I, who have been involved in Sunday soccer for over 20 years, were present at a match last Sunday. We and the other spectators present witnessed continual dissent, harassment of the official and foul language easily heard by all those present.

What perhaps summed it all up was when one player who told a group of spectators including a number of children, exactly what he thought of the referee, using extremely

foul language. When my wife remonstrated with him she was told that bad language was now part of football and if she didn't like it she should stay away. The officials' response to all this was an instruction to get on with the game.

Perhaps those responsible for providing organised sporting activity for those players should follow that advice and stay away and let them get on with it.

Yours sincerely,

DEREK BURT,

28 Witney Road,

Baswick,

Staffordshire.

America and Paralympics

From Mr Gareth Mantle

Sir, Having just listened to Inside Edge on BBC Radio 5 Live today (October 17) I am appalled at the greed of the American Paralympic Association. As I understand it they are funding their own domestic paralympic organisation with money raised from an "international" sporting event, the Paralympics held in Atlanta last year.

Believing they would only break even, the sport's international body agreed the terms. However, a profit of \$4.5 million was eventually made. A year on, this cash has begun to be injected into their internal success. In a competition where international athletes have performed, any profit should undoubtedly be available to an international body able to help development of paralympic sports in countries where it is needed.

The representative of the American association believed the money to have been mostly raised by sponsorship from American companies and said it was the American public who had filled the venues.

Rugby razzmatazz

From Mrs Clare Parkinson

Sir, Is this rugby? As music pulsates, cheer girls dance, free mini rugby balls are used as missiles and free chocolate bars hurled into the crowd cause near riots. Not forgetting the remote control car bringing on the kicking tee, to a cacophony of music.

Let's say goodbye to professionalism if this is the new way forward for rugby. I for one will not be venturing to Saracens again.

Yours faithfully,

CLARE PARKINSON,

14 Coppice Avenue,

Great Shelford,

Cambridgeshire.

This week in THE TIMES



■ Tomorrow

He may be loud and brash on the pitch but away from football Peter Schmeichel is quiet and content. The Manchester United goalkeeper talks to Matt Dickinson.

■ Wednesday

Who will lead the Whitbread Round The World race fleet into Cape Town?

■ Friday

Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve prepare to decide the world championship.

■ Saturday

Football Saturday. The Premiership match-by-match: Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

Champions put to the sword as money begins to talk in Premiership table

Lynagh directs Saracens' progress

Wasps 15
Saracens 19

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

HOW the mighty are falling: Leicester, European finalists last season, on Saturday and yesterday the English champions, Wasps. It is true that the season has a long way to run, but both Northampton and Saracens have lit a fire that, after the relative anonymity of the European Conference, will warm their future displays in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

At Loftus Road, in this North London derby, nearly 10,000 people watched two sides prepared to play constructive rugby, both with ball in hand and, as nerves began to fray, putting boot to ball. There was virtually none of the inhibition that near-neighbours customarily contrive but, increasingly, the old head

Results and tables 35

of Michael Lynagh took Saracens to the places that they needed to be in order to defend their lead in the final quarter.

Lynagh may have lost an edge of speed — indeed the Saracens midfield as a unit could be improved by an extra yard of pace — but their defensive organisation reduced one of the most imaginative back divisions in the country to fumbling hesitation. King and Greenstock tried to lure defenders to them to create space on the flanks, but the fluent support and quick ball that Wasps so desperately wanted never came.

It is indicative of how Saracens lived on the outside line that Rees was able to kick five penalty goals out of five to give Wasps a 15-10 lead going into the last quarter. But it is Saracens who are perched at the head of the first division, just behind Newcastle on points difference in what is, for now, a contest of English rugby's new money.

Whether that will hold true at the season's end remains to be seen. "It's a very valuable two points but there is improvement to come from both sides," Francois Pienaar, the Saracens player-coach, said.



Rolser, centre, finds himself enmeshed by the Saracens defence as another Wasps attack is smothered. Photograph: Jamie McDonald/Allsport

"The season isn't won in October-November."

The bonus for Saracens is that they succeeded without three of their internationals, among them Kyran Bracken, the scrum half, and Richard Hill, the open-side flanker. Bracken turned an ankle playing against Narbonne but will be back this weekend, while Hill must overcome a strained hamstring.

In their absence, Saracens, who have conceded only one try in three Premiership matches, placed their fortunes firmly in the hands of their pack. Pienaar and the bustling Burnett were seen to good effect, but it was the tight forwards who drew the sting

from Wasps, who wheeled the scrum allowed Rees to give Wasps the lead and King played a series of precise kicks behind the defence. Saracens replaced three tight forwards on the hour and, in celebration, Lynagh kicked his second penalty goal as Wasps tried to hold a maul driven from a lineout.

Whether fortune favoured the visitors when Sheasby was judged to have blocked Free is a moot point — the scrum half looked as though he ran into the No 8 in pursuit of his own kick — but it made no difference to Lynagh, who gave his team the lead. Wasps could not retrieve their position and it was poor passing that left

to run close-range penalty attempts in the dying moments.

Rees brought Wasps level, but Gomersall then attacked an unsupported short side and the ball fell free to Daniel, who scooted 90 metres in the opposite direction. The New Zealander looked certain to beat Greenstock and Logan to the line but his joyful dive began too far away and landed just short of the try-line.

Yet it created the position from which Saracens scored a delightful team try. They inched left, carried the ball back right and Constable, for the second time in the move, came diagonally off his wing for the try.

Two offloads and a collapsed scrum allowed Rees to give Wasps the lead and King played a series of precise kicks behind the defence.

"We panicked a bit," Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, said. "We created chances but we didn't take them."

SCORING: Wasps: Penalty goals: Rees 6 (24m, 28, 32, 38, 44). Saracens: Try: Constable (21). Conversion: Lynagh (Penalty goal: Lynagh 4 (2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 70, 74, 78, 82, 86, 90, 94, 98, 102, 106, 110, 114, 118, 122, 126, 130, 134, 138, 142, 146, 150, 154, 158, 162, 166, 170, 174, 178, 182, 186, 190, 194, 198, 202, 206, 210, 214, 218, 222, 226, 230, 234, 238, 242, 246, 250, 254, 258, 262, 266, 270, 274, 278, 282, 286, 290, 294, 298, 302, 306, 310, 314, 318, 322, 326, 330, 334, 338, 342, 346, 350, 354, 358, 362, 366, 370, 374, 378, 382, 386, 390, 394, 398, 402, 406, 410, 414, 418, 422, 426, 430, 434, 438, 442, 446, 450, 454, 458, 462, 466, 470, 474, 478, 482, 486, 490, 494, 498, 502, 506, 510, 514, 518, 522, 526, 530, 534, 538, 542, 546, 550, 554, 558, 562, 566, 570, 574, 578, 582, 586, 590, 594, 598, 602, 606, 610, 614, 618, 622, 626, 630, 634, 638, 642, 646, 650, 654, 658, 662, 666, 670, 674, 678, 682, 686, 690, 694, 698, 702, 706, 710, 714, 718, 722, 726, 730, 734, 738, 742, 746, 750, 754, 758, 762, 766, 770, 774, 778, 782, 786, 790, 794, 798, 802, 806, 810, 814, 818, 822, 826, 830, 834, 838, 842, 846, 850, 854, 858, 862, 866, 870, 874, 878, 882, 886, 890, 894, 898, 902, 906, 910, 914, 918, 922, 926, 930, 934, 938, 942, 946, 950, 954, 958, 962, 966, 970, 974, 978, 982, 986, 990, 994, 998, 1002, 1006, 1010, 1014, 1018, 1022, 1026, 1030, 1034, 1038, 1042, 1046, 1050, 1054, 1058, 1062, 1066, 1070, 1074, 1078, 1082, 1086, 1090, 1094, 1098, 1102, 1106, 1110, 1114, 1118, 1122, 1126, 1130, 1134, 1138, 1142, 1146, 1150, 1154, 1158, 1162, 1166, 1170, 1174, 1178, 1182, 1186, 1190, 1194, 1198, 1202, 1206, 1210, 1214, 1218, 1222, 1226, 1230, 1234, 1238, 1242, 1246, 1250, 1254, 1258, 1262, 1266, 1270, 1274, 1278, 1282, 1286, 1290, 1294, 1298, 1302, 1306, 1310, 1314, 1318, 1322, 1326, 1330, 1334, 1338, 1342, 1346, 1350, 1354, 1358, 1362, 1366, 1370, 1374, 1378, 1382, 1386, 1390, 1394, 1398, 1402, 1406, 1410, 1414, 1418, 1422, 1426, 1430, 1434, 1438, 1442, 1446, 1450, 1454, 1458, 1462, 1466, 1470, 1474, 1478, 1482, 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Hype fails to disguise lack of quality in opening match of World Series

Marlins take Florida to fever pitch

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN MIAMI

TIME seemed out of joint as the best-of-seven World Series between the Florida Marlins and the Cleveland Indians began here on Saturday night. The crowd of 67,245, the biggest for a series game for more than 20 years, went home happy after the Marlins had won, 7-4, but all their orchestrated cheering and Mexican waves could not quite dispel the air of unreality hanging over Pro Player Stadium.

Somewhat, like many of the pitches made by the Cleveland starter, Orel Hershiser, the tradition and grandeur which usually attend the series failed to turn up on time. True, it was difficult to be entirely serious about an event held in an arena named after a brand of underwear (Pro Player is an offshoot of Fruit of the Loom), but there was more to it than that.

Perhaps it was that neither of these teams was expected to reach the game's great showpiece, Cleveland were ranked no higher than seventh among the eight teams qualifying for the play-offs and the Marlins did not even win their division, relying instead on a wild card as best runner-up in the National League.

The impression that these were not actually the two best teams in baseball was heightened by the fact that each had won their pennants despite having inferior batting and pitching averages to their opponents in their respective league championship deciders.

It may be a statistical fluke (it is not so much the number of runs you score but when you score them that really counts), but to beat a team while scoring fewer runs than you allowed them is the sort of trick that gets more than a few wizened old experts scratching their heads.

Still, here they were, and no one on either team, at least, doubted that they deserved to be.

So perhaps it was the lack of pomp

and circumstance that gave the opening game its curious air of detachment. There was ceremony, of course, but it was more *Miami Vice* than *The Godfather*, and the Florida-based pop trio, Hanson, set the tone for the evening with their shrill rendition of the national anthem. At the song's climax, a bald eagle was allowed to fly from one end of the stadium to the other, but the symbolism was lost: the bird's dutiful compliance spoke more of servitude than liberty.

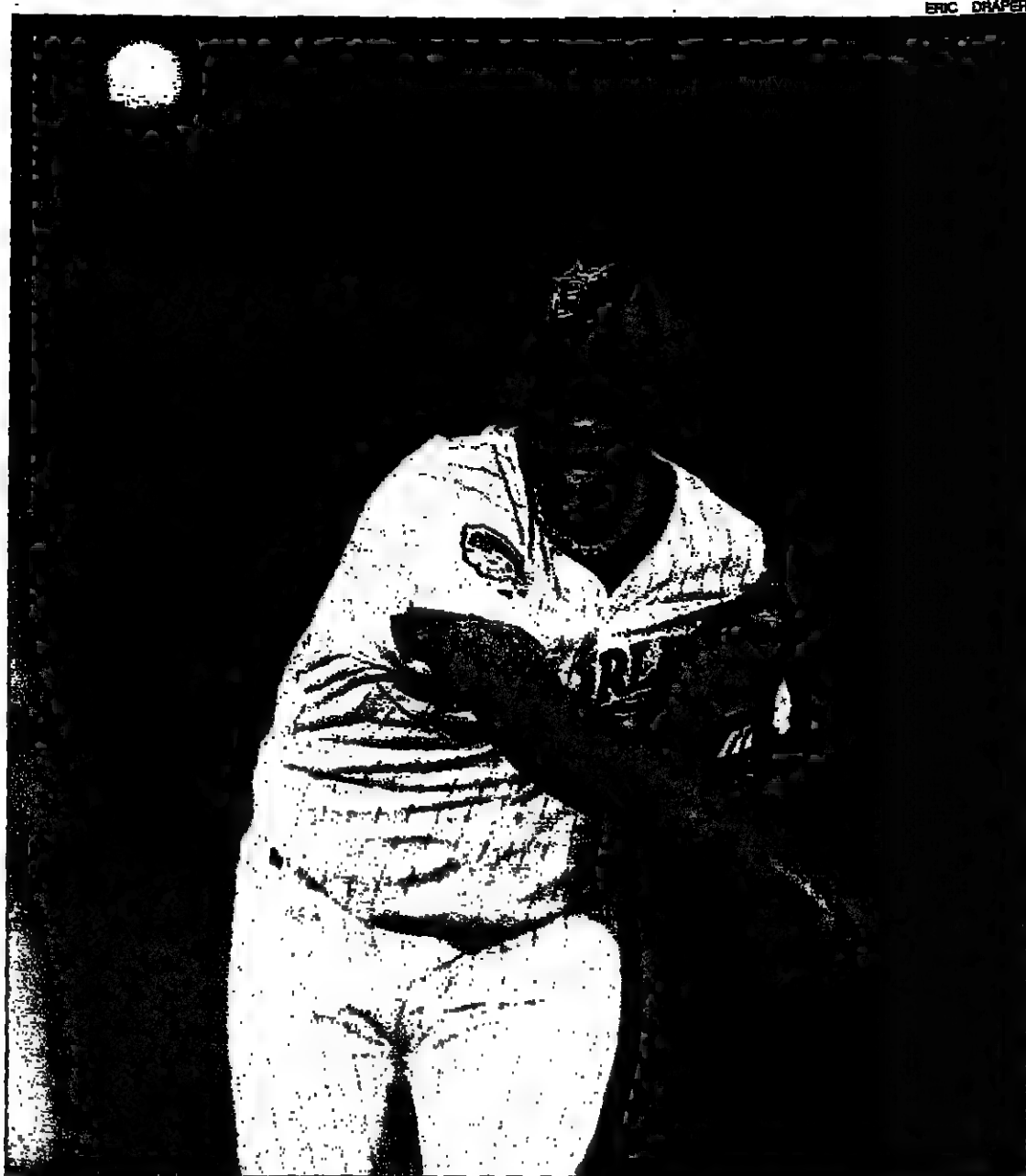
But then the Marlins and tradition are rightly strangers. The team has only been in existence for four years and if little history attaches itself to them then it is hardly noticed by their fans, many of whom seem to be just learning about America's national pastime themselves.

With an accuracy he was unable to find from the pitching mound, Hershiser put his finger on the problem. "When you come to the World Series you think of baseball, apple pie and history," he said. "The Marlins are writing their history. With this series, we're writing history, not reliving it."

Hershiser, as it turned out, would have been better off reliving history than rewriting it during a game in which the teams were perfectly represented by their starting pitchers. Nine years earlier, Hershiser had given one of the great World Series performances in leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to victory over the Oakland A's. Now, at 39, he was older and slower but, we thought, wiser.

Opposing him was the symbol of the Marlins' brash youthfulness: Livan Hernandez, 22, the first rookie to start a game in the series for more than a decade. Hernandez defected from Cuba two years ago and had never even seen a World Series game live on television before starting one.

Halfway through the Indians' first



Hernandez, the Florida Marlins rookie, helps his team to victory over the Cleveland Indians.

Inning it seemed likely that the older man would prevail. Hernandez had already given up one run and still had two men on base. His face, suddenly coated with sweat, looked more like that of a lost 12-year-old than a millionaire sports star. But he escaped and wriggled free from further jams in the third and fifth innings. By then, though, he was in the clear. Hershiser, after a confident start, had simply fallen apart. In the fourth, he gave up a three-run homer to Moises Alou, and four pitches

GAME ONE DETAILS

Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Cleveland	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	11	0
Florida	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	X	7	7	1

Winning pitcher: L. Hernandez. Losing pitcher: O. Hershiser. Saves: R. Neri.

The World Series continued with game two in Miami last night before moving to Cleveland for game three tomorrow, four on Wednesday and five (if necessary) on Thursday. Games six and seven (if required) will take place in Miami next weekend. The series is being televised live in Britain by Channel 5.

later allowed another solo shot which put the game out of sight. By the time that he disappeared amid a hail of caucalls, he had given up seven runs, equalling a World Series record. Thus Hernandez was allowed to

get away with his patchy performance. He, too, gave up two homers and had a temper tantrum when he was lifted by his increasingly anxious manager in the sixth. But he had done enough to win.

With the help of an interpreter, he even managed to summarise accurately the whole evening. "To pitch in the World Series... it's the maddest dream."

By game two, surely, everybody will have woken up.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kimmorley surprise choice for Australia

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THREE uncapped players find places in the 22-strong Australia squad for the British Gas series against Great Britain, which starts at Wembley on Saturday week. The most surprising choice is the inclusion of Brett Kimmorley, 20, who ousted Noel Goldthorpe as the Hunter Mariners' first-choice scrum half. He will be the understudy to Allan Langer, who has not entirely recovered from a groin injury.

Kimmorley was given his chance after the late withdrawal of Ricky Stuart, the Canberra Raiders scrum half, who has back and hamstring problems, and was not confident about being fit.

Paul Green, another highly-rated scrum half, was not available. He broke his sternum during Australia's 20-12 defeat by New Zealand last month.

The other uncapped players are Robbie Kearns, prop for the defunct Perth Reds club, who joined the new Melbourne Storm franchise last week, and Russell Richardson, the long-striding Cronulla Sharks centre.

The squad is otherwise largely predictable, apart from a recall for Steve Walters, the North Queensland Cowboys hooker. The Brisbane Broncos, the world club champions, provide eight of the players.

The squad, coached by John Lang, leaves for Britain next weekend. Lang said that Langer had insisted all along that he would make the tour. Even half-fit, Langer posted sufficient warnings to Britain of his mastery abilities in Brisbane's world club final defeat of Hunter last Friday.

Australia squad: Backs: L. Daley (Canberra), captain; A. Ellingwood (Cronulla), R. Gardner (Perth), B. Kimmorley (Perth), A. Langer (Brisbane), D. Lockyer (Brisbane), S. Mullins (Canberra), K. Nages (Brisbane), S. Ransford (Brisbane), R. Hall (Canberra), G. Hogg (Canberra), W. Geller (Brisbane). Forwards: M. Ackermann (Perth), S. Cline (Langer), G. Gower (Perth), C. Gower (Perth), D. Cronulla), S. Kearns (Melbourne), S. Talle (Brisbane), B. Thorn (Brisbane), J. Brown (Cronulla), D. Smith (Brisbane), S. Waller (North Queensland), S. Welch (Canberra).

SPEEDWAY

Hancock's hour has come to aid Cradley

BY TONY HOARE

SPEEDWAYS most famous rivalry will be resumed tonight when Wolverhampton and Cradley Heath tackle each other in a fund-raising event with a difference. The difference is that Cradley Heath have not been part of British speedway at all this year and money is being raised to help to bring the club back from the dead.

Greg Hancock and Billy Hamill, former Cradley riders and winners of the individual world championship in the past two seasons, will lead a team of former Heathens against the Wolves. Cradley lost Dudley Wood, their stadium, two years ago and, after a financially draining 1996 season using Stoke's stadium, they were forced to put their promoting licence on hold while they strove to return to their spiritual home.

The stadium owners agreed two years ago to sell the site to Barratts, the builders, but Dudley council refused planning permission and has also rejected a subsequent appeal. The speedway club's hopes rest with the council placing a compulsory purchase order on the site.

The stadium is now derelict and the chances of a return in 1998 are slim, but the club is determined to return and Wolves would relish the return of regular local derbies. Chris van Strazzen, the Wolverhampton promoter, said: "The whole of speedway has suffered through not having Cradley in the fold."

Hancock, who rode for eight seasons in the colours of Cradley, said: "Some people have lost interest but we want to show that there is still hope. Billy and I want to ride for Cradley again, because our roots are at Dudley Wood."

A special fund-raising turn-out has been set up at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium for the meeting tonight and £3 of the price paid for each ticket at that gate will go to the fighting fund.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

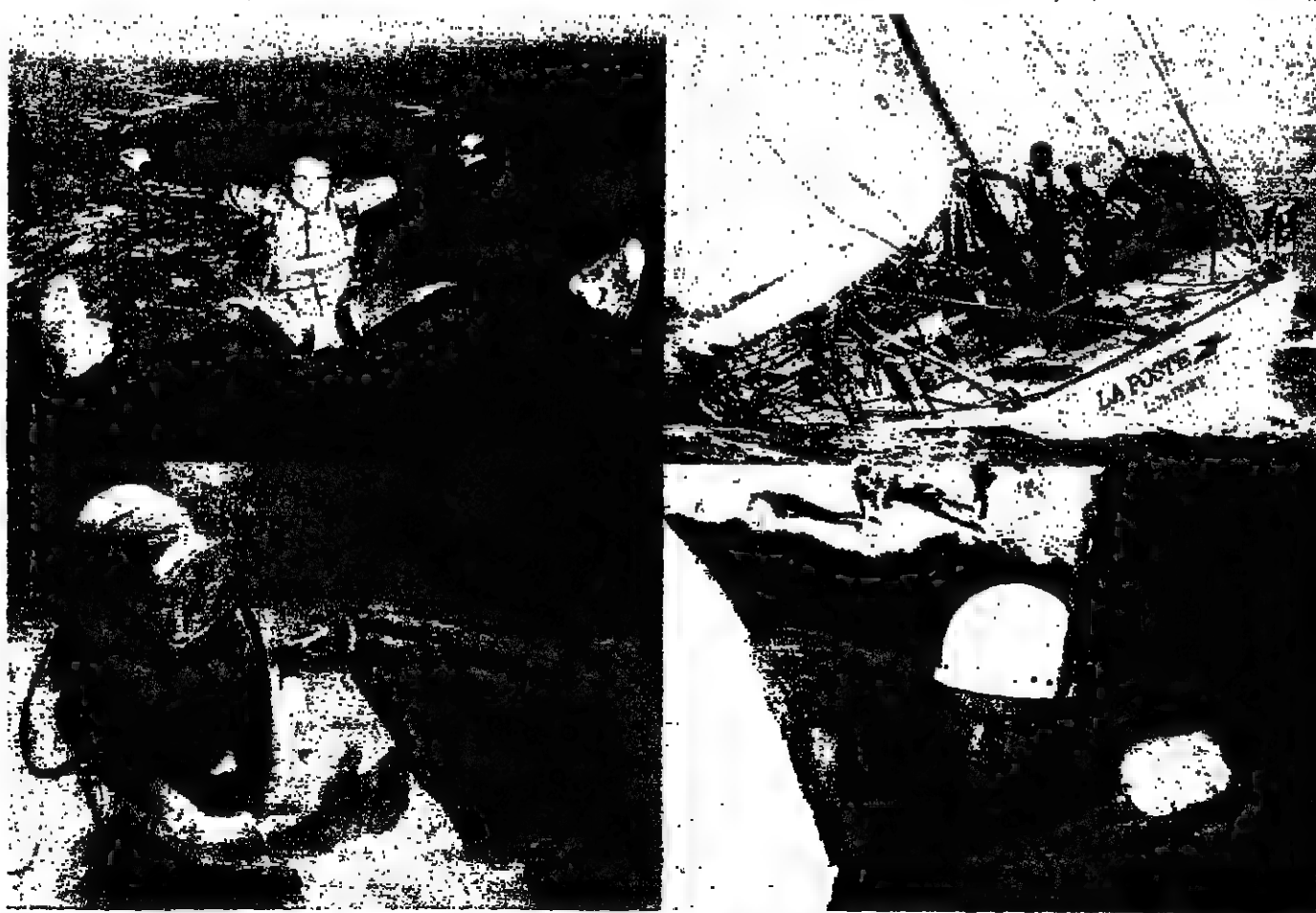
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CHANGING TIMES

ICE HOCKEY

Stewart on song as Newcastle cut loose

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AYR Scottish Eagles, Cardiff Devils, Manchester Storm and Newcastle Cobras are through to the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup. The most emphatic performance in the second-leg matches on Saturday came from Newcastle, who, having been held to a 1-1 draw at home by Basingstoke Bison in the first leg, won 5-1 in the return. Each team scored once in the first period but, from midway through the second, Newcastle took over with Brent Stewart claiming a hat-trick.

Because of the unavailability of Sheffield Arena, the Steelers and Cardiff played their legs home and away on Friday and Saturday. A goal by Steve Moria with less than two minutes remaining gave Cardiff a 3-2 edge in the first leg but, after one period in the second leg, the Steelers were level on aggregate.

Then the Devils found their form, scoring five times in the second period and, but for Piero Greco who made 35 saves in the Sheffield goal, the Devils could have been even more emphatic winners.

The Eagles gained ample revenge for their defeat at the hands of Nottingham Panthers in the semi-finals of the Superleague play-offs last year, following up their 4-2 home win with a 4-3 away success.

The Eagles boosted their aggregate lead to three with a goal by Jeff Hoad, the former Nottingham player, in the first period but the Panthers scored three times in the second to draw within one overall, only to concede two goals in the final session.

Manchester Storm were clearly not inconvenienced by their midweek trip to the Czech Republic, where they gained their first win in the European League, and beat Bracknell Bees 5-4 to go through on a 7-6 aggregate. This was another game in which the losing goalender stood out, with Mark Bernard facing 45 shots.

No quarter is asked, and none given, as Hampton tackle Glantaf in *The Times* St Joseph's College National Schools Festival

Wakefield rewrite the script

By SIMON WILDE

FOR those of a sensationalist disposition, the signs were quite promising. Independent schools sport has incurred some unsavoury publicity with cricket teams refusing to play each other and standards of behaviour under scrutiny.

Combine that with rugby's reputation for violence interrupted by sporadic outbursts of play, and one had a potentially heady mix at *The Times* St Joseph's College National Schools Festival at Ipswich this weekend. There were no scandals, fortunately, but enough uncompromising action to confirm that this was not the idle pursuit of pre-pubescent schoolboys.

The teams were clearly playing to win, as a vote of thanks to the St John Ambulance Brigade brought home. The volunteers attended to more than 100 casualties and ten were taken to hospital.

Colston's Collegiate School were the holders and a team of giants, physically and metaphorically, compared to others. They kept the referees and opposition 'spongers' busy. One hapless defender, laid

low by a high tackle from their granite-like No 6, had to be peeled off the turf and have his nose readjusted before continuing. Colston's reputation as a rugby school is formidable. Unlike some others they take on boys on scholarships and twice in the past three years have won the festival and the *Daily Mail* Cup; in the other year they won the cup. Since 1992 they have provided 12 international players. To some observers, they are bordering on semi-professional.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, losers to Colston's in previous years, qualified to meet them in the festival final, for the De La Salle Trophy, yesterday. "Here we go again," said a member of the Wakefield coaching staff as the players took the field. "A grammar school versus the Bath finishing school." One or two crunching tackles later, it was easy

to see his point. It looked as though it would be only a matter of time before Colston's got the ball out to their fleet-footed backs and the tries started pouring in. Wakefield, though, refused to lie down and kept making their tackles. Colston's, whose handling was a class above everybody else, simply could not break them down. It was tense, dour stuff, but Wakefield's fitness stood them in good stead and late in the game they were awarded a penalty.

It was further out than the kick that had earlier won Kelvin Lock, of Bedford Modern School, the long-kicking competition but James Burroughs duly smacked it over for a 3-0 win. When the final whistle went, the Wakefield party went wild. Colston's looked stunned.

Both schools had won their six qualifying games with Colston's scoring far more points. But perhaps the writing was on the wall because in their last match before the final they struggled to beat Bromsgrove, 12-10.

The tournament, now in its eleventh year, is one of the most prestigious rugby tournaments in the independent sector and scouts from the big clubs were again in attendance. Sixteen of the sport's leading schools are invited to take part over the two days.

The trophy is competed for by the two top teams from each of four qualifying pools. The other eight teams contested a plate competition, won this year by RGS Wycombe who beat Merciston College, Edinburgh, winners of the trophy last year, 13-12. All matches consist of 15 a side and two 15-minute periods, which adds up to a physically demanding programme for the most successful teams, who play seven 30-minute matches within 36 hours.

The festival, which has been a breeding ground for young talent, was blessed with some glorious weather, was superbly organised and well attended, with a crowd for the trophy final of several hundred.

SPORT



above everybody else, simply could not break them down. It was tense, dour stuff, but Wakefield's fitness stood them in good stead and late in the game they were awarded a penalty.

House of Lords

Law Report October 20 1997

House of Lords

Compensation for employees

Tracey and Others v Crosville Wales Ltd

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan and Lord Clyde

[Speeches October 16]

Where there was collective industrial action for which all involved were equally responsible and for which all were dismissed, the compensation payable for unfair dismissal on the selective re-engagement of some employees who were not re-engaged would not be reduced to take account of contributory fault.

It was impossible to judge the blameworthiness or otherwise of the particular employee's conduct without reference to the conduct of the other employees concerned and to that of the employer. However, individual blameworthiness could be taken into account in principle amounting to contributory fault.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by Crosville Wales Ltd from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Ognell) (The Times August 4, 1996; [1996] ICR 237) allowing an appeal by Sharon Tracey and 72 other former employees of the company against a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal reversing the decision of an industrial tribunal not to make any deduction for contributory fault from their awards for having been unfairly dismissed by the company's selective failure to offer re-engagement following their dismissal for taking industrial action.

Alleged contemnor should be represented

Regina v Tyne Tees Television Ltd

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Mr Justice Ognell and Mr Justice Buckley

[Judgment October 9]

Any judge exercising the jurisdiction to punish for contempt was well advised to invite, although he could not require, the alleged contemnor to be legally represented in court. As a rule it was only in that way that the judge could obtain the assistance of counsel or solicitors often considering what powers he had and the circumstances of the case.

The Court of Appeal so stated when quashing the order made by Judge Stephenson on January 17, 1997 at Newcastle-upon-Tyne Crown Court imposing on Tyne Tees Television Ltd a fine of £10,000 for contempt of court.

Mr Jonathan Caplan, QC, for the appellants; Mr Ian Burnett as *amicus curiae*.

The House expressed concern that in the current state of the law an employer who had not deliberately victimised employees through selective re-engagement should be required to pay as much compensation as if he had. It was an area which would benefit from examination by the Law Commission.

Section 62 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 as amended by the Employment Act 1982, since re-enacted as section 238 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, provides:

"(1) The provisions of this section shall have effect in relation to an employee (the 'complainant') who claims that he has been unfairly dismissed by his employer where at the date of dismissal—(a) the employer was conducting or instituting a lock out, or (b) the complainant was taking part in a strike or other industrial action."

"(2) In such a case an industrial tribunal shall not determine whether the dismissal was fair or unfair unless it is shown—(a) that one or more relevant employees of the same employer have not been dismissed, or (b) that any such employee has, before the expiry of the period of three months beginning with that employee's date of dismissal, been offered re-engagement and that the complainant has not been offered re-engagement."

"(3) Where it is shown that the condition referred to in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) is fulfilled, the provisions of sections 57 to 60 shall have effect as if in those sections any reference to the reason or principal reason for which the complainant was dismissed were substituted a reference to the reason or principal reason of which he has not been offered re-engagement."

Mr Jeremy McMullen, QC and Mr Paul T. Ryan for Crosville Mr Michael Burton, QC and Mr John Bowers for the employees.

LORD NOLAN said the appeal concerned the relationship between the provisions of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 concerning the refusal of an employer to re-engage striking employees who had been dismissed, and the provisions under which the compensation payable to unfairly dismissed employees might be reduced for contributory fault. Different answers had been given by the Employment Appeal Tribunal in earlier cases.

The employer dismissed 119 bus drivers who took part in a walk-out in support of union branch officers disciplined during a ban on overtime and rest day working in support of a pay claim.

Twenty-two of those dismissed were subsequently re-employed and 73 of the drivers made complaints of unfair dismissal. An industrial tribunal held that there was jurisdiction to hear their complaints pursuant to section 62 of the 1978 Act. Now section 238 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. That decision was upheld on appeal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

A new industrial tribunal upheld the complaints in principle and concluded that the failure of Crosville Wales to re-engage the employees was unfair. The employers had failed to offer re-engagement to all because they

thought advertising through the media and the job centre was so tedious that it was not worth the cost.

Crosville Wales had contended on appeal from that decision that because the employees' conduct had contributed to their dismissal, the compensation to which they became entitled in consequence of the dismissal should be reduced by such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable in all the circumstances.

The first complication was that although the complainants' claims for compensation only came into existence because of the selective re-engagement carried out by Crosville Wales, that factor had to be ignored in determining whether the compensation should be reduced under section 73(7B) or section 74(6). *Courtauld's Northern Spinning Ltd v Moss* [1984] ICR 218.

The second complication was that the tribunal had applied *Courtauld's* and held that it was not entitled to regard the participation of the complainants in the industrial action as a ground for reducing their compensation. The tribunal added that if it had been entitled to reduce the compensation on that ground it would have done so by 50 per cent, since the complainants and Crosville Wales were equally to blame.

By the time the matter came before the Employment Appeal Tribunal again the decision in *TNT Express (UK) Ltd v Downes* [1994] ICR 11 had been given. The employer who conducted a lock-out or who carried out a wholesale dismissal of striking employees was prima facie immune from claims for unfair dismissal. If the matter rested there, then the section would be strong evidence of a legislative intention to keep the merits of industrial disputes out of the courts.

But the reintroduction of the concept of unfair dismissal by way of the provisions regulating selective re-engagement inevitably involved the possibility of the tribunal having to consider the case of the individual employee in the context of the industrial action

and of the employer's conduct in applying the provisions of section 57 as notoriously rewarded.

The difficulty for Crosville Wales was that when one came to the final stage of deciding whether the dismissed employees' compensation should be reduced one encountered the complication of the fairness or unfairness of the selective re-engagement had to be ignored.

It was at that point, to his Lordship's mind, that the argument for the employer failed, because of the sheer impossibility of the task of allocating the blame for the industrial action to any individual complainant, the more so since the collective blame for the industrial action was shared by those who were re-engaged.

That was a consequence which Parliament could never have contemplated. The conclusion simply gave effect to the statutory requirement that any reduction in the compensation of an individual employee should be, and should only be, such as was just and equitable.

His Lordship accepted that a broader approach must be followed at the earlier stage when the tribunal was considering whether, in a case of selective re-engagement, the particular employee had been unfairly dismissed.

At that stage, particularly if the employer's conduct came into the reckoning under section 57(2)(b), it might well be essential to compare the treatment accorded to that employee with the treatment accorded to others, and to have regard to the employer's conduct and to the general merits of the case.

But even there his Lordship would stop short of accepting that the consideration of the matter by the tribunal must necessarily extend to the collective merits or demerits of the industrial action.

The point was not before his Lordship and so it would be wrong to attempt to decide it, but one could not ignore the preponderance of judicial opinion over the last 20 years to the effect that whole policy of the law as enshrined in the 1974 Act and the later enactments was to withdraw the law from the field of industrial disputes.

His Lordship dismissed the appeal, but with little sense of satisfaction about the justice of the result, or the state of the law which had given rise to it. It was not, after all, a case of deliberate victimisation by the employers, but just what compensation as if it had been.

That area of the law appeared to his Lordship to be one which would benefit from the attention of the Law Commission.

Lord Goff, Lord Mackay, Lord Lloyd and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Dickinson Dees, Newcastle upon Tyne; Jack Thornley & Partners, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Terrorism suspect has no right to solicitor at interview

Regina v Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Ex parte Begley

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Hope of Craighead

[Speeches October 16]

A person arrested in Northern Ireland under section 14 of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 had no right to be accompanied and advised by his solicitor during interviews with the police.

The House of Lords so held in giving reasons for having on July 30:

1 Dismissed an appeal by Charles Begley from the decision of the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division in Northern Ireland on March 6, 1996 to dismiss his application for an order of certiorari to quash decisions of the Royal Ulster Constabulary refusing to permit a solicitor to attend him during police interviews following his arrest under section 14(1).

2 Dismissed an appeal by Thomas McWilliams from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hope, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Carswell and Lord Justice Nicholson) dated September 20, 1996 dismissing his appeal against his conviction for murder in Belfast Crown Court, a ground of his appeal having been the refusal to allow his solicitor to be present during police interviews after his arrest under section 14(1).

Mr A. D. Harvey, QC and Mr J. F. Larkin, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for Begley; Mr R. E. Weatherup, QC and Mr Bernard McCloskey, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for the Crown.

Mr Kevin Finnegan, QC and Mr Seamus Treacy, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for McWilliams; Mr J. A. Cunnery, QC and Mr P. T. Lynch, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for the Crown.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the common law recognised a general right in an accused person to communicate and consult privately with his solicitor outside the interview room.

That development was reflected in the Judges' Rules and Administrative Directions to the Police which were published as Home Office Circular No 89/1978.

That principle was subsequently enshrined in legislation in England and Wales as well as in Northern Ireland, and the right was extended to persons suspected of having committed offences under the terrorism provisions.

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PASSING THE BUCK

INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

No one looks like winning their spurs at Tottenham



Gerry Francis must go, eh?

That's what the fans are saying — well, those who turn up.

The others are voting with their feet, then?

While Arsenal are fretting about how they can expand Highbury because all 38,000 seats are spoken for, nine games out of ten, White Hart Lane has empty spaces almost every match, despite being nearly a fifth smaller. The venerable ground, once graced by Greaves, Gilzean and Gazza, was full only a handful of times last season.

But Spurs are a big club, aren't they?

Traditionally, one of the big five, along with Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Everton. They were the first club to come to the stock market and led the way in money-making schemes such as sponsorship, executive boxes and merchandising.

What's happened, then?

In recent years, the balance of power has shifted and Spurs have been left behind. They have not won anything for six years and, if you were drawing up a big five now, it would be Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Newcastle United and either Chelsea or Aston Villa.

Is this all the fault of Alan Sugar, the chairman?

Some might say so, but others say he is the club's saviour. The previous management — Irving Scholar and Paul Bobroff — drove the club to the brink of collapse. Terry Venables, then the manager, brought in Sugar to bankroll the company, but they fell out as Sugar started trying to run Spurs as a business. On those terms, Sugar has succeeded — operating profits went from £1.4 million in 1993-94 to around £16 million last season. The club is now valued on the stock market at £92 million.

But he hasn't given Francis any money to spend on players.

Wrong again. Sugar has actually allowed Francis to spend more than £20 million. Apparently, Sugar was prepared to let Francis spend £4 million to bring Gascoigne back from Lazio.

So throwing money about is not always the answer?

With clubs traded on the stock market, it is now a much more interesting balance. For instance, Newcastle United's full-year figures, which are out tomorrow, will show the benefits of selling Les Ferdinand a matter of hours before the end of the company's financial year.

How come?

The Newcastle board was desperate not to show a big loss in its first year on the stock market. But after joining Spurs for £6 million, Ferdinand has also taken up residency in the treatment room. A couple more poor acquisitions by Spurs will not only put pressure on Francis but also Sugar.

So Sugar might go?

Only if he wants to. He controls 40 per cent of the company and calls the shots. He has dealt with more pressurised situations than this in the past and survived. The same cannot be said for Francis.

JASON NISSE

John Young introduces a two-page report on the importance of design in boosting British business and the economy

It's time to back Britain's boffins

More than 40 per cent of the world's commercially important innovations in the past half century have originated in the United Kingdom. Going further back, British invention has been responsible for nearly three quarters of all significant new products and processes since the Industrial Revolution.

Such a claim might seem an outrageous piece of chauvinistic hype, were it not for the fact that it comes from the government trade and industry department in Japan. Last year it was cited by Barbara Roche, now Minister for Small Businesses, to support her assertion that Britain loses about £165 billion a year in GNP by failing to take advantage of its inventions.

A time-honoured perception is that the Brits, while brilliant at dreaming up new ideas, are too lazy to translate them into well-designed, marketable and reliable products, thus leaving it to their competitors to reap the rewards.

It is not a view that Andrew Summers, chief executive of the Design Council, accepts as ever having been wholly true, and is one that he would rebut today. While not complacent, he asserts that there has been a dramatic change in attitudes and a recognition that, if Britain is to remain an industrial power, it will have to exploit and perfect as well as innovate.

Mr Summers would be the last to claim that the change coincides with his own appointment less than three years ago. But he does believe that during his time an organisation that was perceived as overstuffed and out of touch has acquired a new respect and relevance.

Drastic cuts in staff by up to 80 per cent, and the selective employment of freelance consultants have, he says, altered the council's method of operation. The result has been renewed confidence on the part of Government, business and educa-



Summers encouraged

tional authorities in its importance for the nation's economic future.

Mr Summers cannot resist a certain satisfaction at the encouragement he and his colleagues received at the recent Labour Party conference. He has with him an extract from the Prime Minister's speech, describing the British as by nature and tradition innovators, adventurers and pioneers, and still world leaders in design and creativity. "Delegates showed a lot of interest in the council's work and said we were doing some very good things," he says.

Political approval, however welcome, is less important than the marked shift in the attitudes of businessmen and industrialists. "From a situation where no one ever asked us for anything, we are now overwhelmed with requests for help and advice," he says.

"It is far easier for us to make contact with outside organisations than in the old days when their attitude seemed to be 'Don't waste our time'." The improvement in communications has been matched by renewed interest on the part of the media, with more coverage of the council's work.

In broader terms, Mr Summers believes that the only way in which

Britain can maintain and increase its share of world markets is by offering added value in the form of better design and improved technology. The era when companies sought to remain competitive by shedding staff and cutting costs is largely over, he says. The emphasis now is on innovation.

The greatest single advance is likely to be in electronic communications. "We need to understand and put ourselves in a position to appreciate the power they will exert." The way in which communications are designed and fitted into business systems will make a hell of a difference in how business functions in the years to come.

Mr Summers draws a distinction between invention, which produces new concepts, and design, which brings those concepts to the market. He concedes that, in the development of computers for example, the invention of the microchip was a crucial breakthrough. But the key to their public acceptance has been designing equipment that customers want and are confident they can use.

Britain's recovery from industrial decline has been recognised by the number of international companies now investing here. But there is still a long way to go, he says.

While the perception of Britain among overseas investors and customers has improved, there is still a complacency, a belief that British is best. Although wary of taking political sides, Mr Summers nonetheless applauds Tony Blair's vision of a more open and tolerant society. "We must at all costs avoid any attempt to be exclusive," Mr Summers says. "Creativity is international. Our future lies in exporting ideas as well as products."

Only a cynic would suggest that this is what we have been doing all along and have been forced to pay the price.



Andrew England Kerr, left, and Brian Ollis, hold on to Michael England Kerr as he demonstrates the lifejacket in a reservoir

Happy landings for anglers who cast off

An inflatable fishing jacket invented by a Birmingham entrepreneur has helped in the rescue of three fishermen since its launch last year.

The Doctor's Jacket is designed to be as good as any fishing jacket on the market, but has the added benefit of a lifesaving device through a method of automatic self-inflation and a self-righting capability.

It is the work of Andrew England Kerr and his brother Michael. Their company, England's Fly Fishers, now exports the jacket not only throughout Europe but to

destinations including Russia, Japan, South America and America. Andrew says: "We dedicated the jacket to the memory of our late father, Dr W.A. England Kerr, who came from Inverness. The second reported life saved was that of the local dentist in Inverness."

In April last year the company contacted Business Link Birmingham for help in applying for a regional innovation grant, and after advice from Brian Ollis, the Link's innovation and technology

specialist, it was awarded a £25,000 development grant. Mr Ollis says: "The designs were first-rate, combining fashion and style with a unique life-saving function. It was obvious that the product had enormous potential. There was nothing else like it on the European market."

The secret is an automatic inflation device which responds to water pressure and means that if a casualty is unconscious or unable to inflate an orthodox lifejacket,

the "Doctor" is still operational. Andrew had in the past gone to the assistance of two people who got into difficulties in the water, and was convinced of the need for life-saving appliances to be worn.

But he says that inventing something like this was only the start of the process, which has taken five years. "We have had to source technically complex fabrics, fastenings, inflation mechanisms, plus fight our way through the maze of regulations that surround life-saving clothing," he says.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN

A model of wall to wall success

CARPET DESIGN

When Ulster Carpet Mills won the UK Quality Award for Business Excellence last year it was the first time that a design-based business had taken the UK's leading prize for business excellence. Christopher Warman writes.

A year on, Daniel McLarnon, corporate services director, is convinced that the company's success can be attributed to its commitment to the Business Excellence Model.

Developed as a route-planner for companies, the model sets out nine components of business process and performance, explaining how companies can assess themselves against each one to bring about improvements.

"The model has had a fundamental impact on our approach to carpet design," said Mr McLarnon. "When we came to evaluate our policies and strategies we realised that we were not as close to our customers as we should be. Many of our corporate installations are overseas, yet our designers were in Portadown. We had



In tune: Ulster Mills

to address this isolationism in order to grow. Now we have designers in France, the United States and Africa as well as back home. We are much more in tune with customers and better able to anticipate changes in design taste."

Richard Parker, of the British Quality Foundation, guardians of the Business Excellence Model in the UK, says Ulster Carpet Mills is a prime example of how the model's principles can improve results.

British Quality Foundation: 0171-463 8000.

The UK must match its rivals in presentation skills, says John Young

How image can improve profits

If some statistics are said to lie, others appear frankly inexplicable. What, for example, is one supposed to make of the Design Council's finding that, while 92 per cent of small businesses believe design provides a competitive edge, 50 per cent still think it is a waste of money?

The council's response is to declare its determination to "close the gap", a determination reflected in events such as Design in Business Week, instigated last year as a means of conveying the message that better design means bigger profits. In the simplest terms, an investment of just 1 per cent in improved product design can lead to a 3 or 4 per cent increase in profits.

Among larger companies the message seems to have got across. The British design industry is now worth more than £12 billion a year and employs 300,000 people, accounting for 1.8 per cent of GDP and 1.2 per cent of total employment.

Manufacturing industry spends an estimated £10 billion on product development and design. About 173,000 employees — 4.5 per cent of the workforce — are involved in design, and overseas earnings by British design consultancies contribute nearly £400 million to the nation's balance of payments.

Significantly, those indus-

tries that invest most heavily in product design and development, such as aerospace, mechanical engineering and chemicals, are those in which Britain has a trade surplus. Although engineering and technology account for the largest block of investment, proportionately more is spent by companies engaged in the production of furniture, textiles, clothing and graphics.

Yet although Britain has a disproportionately large share of "world-class" companies, their brand images seldom match the scale of their investment and turnover. Other countries, and smaller companies, have been more successful in promoting the quality, flair and reliability of their products.

British manufacturers have lagged behind their international competitors in exploiting the value to be gained from good design and promotion. A CBI report concluded that only one in ten manufacturing companies was truly innovative, and that there was an urgent need to speed up the introduction of new products.

Encouragingly, surveys in the past two years have found



Margaret Beckett: support

that the proportion of large companies recognising that design is an essential component of their work has risen from about 40 per cent to more than 66 per cent. But many small to medium-sized companies still see it as an expensive drain on resources.

Hopes that attitudes may change will find expression in Design in Business Week '97, to be opened on Thursday by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and intended to become an annual event. In a foreword to the accompanying brochure, Mrs Beckett

declares that effective exploitation of design is a message that must be taken to heart if companies are to survive and grow.

Events during the week offer a broad choice of venues including London, Belfast, Warwick, Huddersfield, Bradford, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Norwich, Cambridge, Leicester and Plymouth. Conferences, seminars, lectures and exhibitions cover subjects ranging from innovation advice for small businesses to the use of the Internet to improve communications; from environmental pressures to the design of healthcare products; and from brand promotion to more cutting-edge approaches to image and presentation.

The voluntary sector has just one event: a seminar in London on October 29 organised by The Media Trust. From charity branding to campaign management, the seminar aims to demonstrate how to adopt a more cutting-edge approach to image and presentation.

Barbara Roche, the Small Businesses Minister, will be among the speakers at the seventh annual conference of the Institute of Business Advisers at the Hilton Hotel, Coventry, on October 25.

Information is available from the Design Council, Haymarket House, 1 Osnorton Street, London SW1Y 4EE. Tel: 0171-208 2121. Fax: 0171-839 6033.

Duke's award is relaunched

The Prince Philip Designers Prize, last awarded in 1994, has been revived to recognise a significant contribution to the process of design, emphasising originality and aesthetic quality. Christopher Warman writes.

First known as The Duke of Edinburgh's Prize for Elegant Design, it has been through many different stages in its history since it was first awarded to the Prestcold "Packaway" refrigerator by C.W.F. Longman in 1959.

The relaunched Prince Philip Designers Prize 1997, to be awarded to an individual designer or leader of a design team, has new criteria. They include the entrants' influence on design standards and trends, their contribution to the perception of design and status of designers, and their success in the market place.

There are seven finalists, nominated by organisations invited by the Design Council, including the Arts Council, the Consumers' Association, the Federation of Small Businesses and The Royal Society. The



The Duke: contribution

winner will be announced during Design in Business Week '97. They are James Dyson, inventor of the revolutionary cyclone vacuum-cleaner; Sir Norman Foster, architect; Michael Gill, developer of a range of ultrasonic flow meters, including the Ultrasonic Domestic Gas Meter; Betty Jackson, fashion designer; Ben Kelly, interior designer; Jane Priestman, architect and design management consultant; and Richard Seymour and Dick Powell, product designers.

Design Council

What's the essence of Britain's creativity? Have old notions of nationhood had their day? Do we need to rebuild the UK's image? Just what would a 'new brand for new Britain' mean?

You'll find the answers in the latest challenging issue of *Design*, the journal of the Design Council. Every quarter, *Design* takes an in-depth view of design developments in business, education and government. Our new Britain issue, for example, features studies of brands from Rolls-Royce through BA to Psion. And articles by top business writers including Charles Handy.

So for the inside story on innovation, subscribe to *Design*. Call ETP publishing 01245 491717.



Julian Atkinson among some of his newly designed coffins, including a carving on a lid taken from a brass rubbing

Bringing art to an essential craft

You might not think a coffin-maker would need to explain his product to the world. Christopher Warman writes. But a family-owned company from Peshaw, Tyne and Wear, has achieved successful results from producing a new catalogue designed with the help of a local Business Link design counsellor.

Coffin designers and manufac-

COFFIN MAKER

turers J C Atkinson & Sons wanted to produce a catalogue that would promote its business to the funeral profession and enable undertakers to show the range of coffins to bereaved families. They realised that at such a sensitive time the design of the brochure would be critical.

Nick Devitt, design counsellor at Business Link Sunderland (now Tyneside), assisted the company in developing a design brief and finding a design company.

Julian Atkinson, director of J C Atkinson & Sons, worked closely with Rufus Abajas Design in Seaham, Co Durham, to develop

the catalogue, and the use of advanced imaging computer technology enabled them to assess the brochure fully before committing it to print.

Mr Devitt said J C Atkinson & Sons had made a significant investment in design and, through careful planning, preparation and working with the appropriate design company, the "investment was paying off".

Style parade to put us ahead of the pack

Amanda Loose on the showcase that will prove the UK is in the forefront of a creative revolution

A major initiative was launched by the Design Council last month to identify Britain's most innovative products and services to take us into the 21st century. Successful innovations will be showcased at the Millennium Dome, in Greenwich, on regional tours and promoted around the world by the British Council.

The initiative, which will be funded by the Government through the Department of Trade and Industry, was welcomed by Tony Blair, who said it would prove Britain was at the forefront of a "creative revolution".

Reminiscent in many ways of the 1951 Festival of Britain, the Millennium Products scheme aims to promote Britain at home and abroad as a design leader. Design for the future and the future of design is something that the Council is keen to promote, according to Karen Levi, director of the Millennium Product scheme. Those involved want to identify products or services which do something differently, and to highlight British successes in many fields, from pharmaceuticals to fashion.

"We are aiming to identify, encourage and promote innovative products created in Britain for the next century, from the broadest range of sectors as possible," she says. "We frequently see innovations as one-off examples in this country, but they are not often displayed as a collective body."

The scheme focuses on our successes and harnessing them, showing what we can do and achieve, changing how we are perceived abroad.

The diversity of selected designs will be one of the scheme's greatest merits, according to Paul Thomp-

son, director of London's Design Museum and a member of the Millennium Products panel. "It is important that as an industrial nation we do look forwards," he says, "and the scheme gives us this opportunity. We can concentrate on what Britain is good at: we have strong creative minds, and this excellence is what we have to sell to the rest of the world."

"This creativity extends beyond design and architecture, to innovations and scientific achievements. The awards are not just confined to putting art excellence on the back, but rewarding design in its broadest sense."

So what makes a Millennium Product? Ms Levi says: "We are looking for products which are innovatively conceived or challenge the conventions of how they are used or produced. It is very hard to be more prescriptive as we will be looking at such a wide range of entrants."

Successful entries will be heavily promoted, not just in the media, but on the Internet and CD-Roms, says Ms Levi, taking the story of the thinking behind them to as many people as possible, at home and abroad.

"We want to use the scheme to encourage people, to teach and provide examples to other businesses, so they can apply the new skills

to their own methodology," she says. "We will take them into schools so students can get excited about them at primary and secondary levels, developing the right interests and attitude in the next generation of designers."

The entries, which must be a product or service created in Britain and launched between January 1995 and December 31, 1997, will be judged by a panel of 50 style gurus, including household names such as Janet Street-Porter, Sir Terence Conran and Germaine Greer.

The Design Council will invite submissions and announce Millennium Products every six months until 2000. Many thousands of entries are expected for the first round, where the deadline for submissions is January 16, 1998. Those selected will be announced next March.

The Design Council has selected a number of products as pointers for prospective entrants. They come from the worlds of IT, medicine, fashion and even supermarkets. A biodegradable wound dressing, in tune with human tissue, is listed, as is the Psion Series 5, a hand-held computer which can surf the Internet, send and receive messages and even track share prices. Shop & Go, Sainsbury's personal scanning system, which allows shoppers to avoid checkout queues, is also included.

The scheme will "gee" us up, says Mr Thompson: "It will make us all aware of what is going on. It will stop people in industry, the service sector and laboratories, and make them think about what they are doing. And many will realise that they are developing world-class products."

● Brochure and submission form, 0181-580 8826.

Easy-to-recycle items benefit companies and consumers

Designing products with the environment in mind can pay dividends, particularly with the advent of "producer responsibility" legislation. Amanda Loose writes.

Many companies already have to collect and recycle their products' packaging materials, but legislation in the pipeline could mean that they will have to "take back" products at the end of their lives.

Easy-to-recycle products with re-usable components would have a competitive edge, as would environmental-standard benchmarks, because consumers are increasingly aware of such issues. Looking at environmental concerns at the early stages of design is vital, says the Centre for Sustainable Design, and can save your company money.

A survey by the centre last year showed that 68 per cent of companies in the electronics sector believe "producer responsibility" will have a significant impact on their businesses. Many expect it to change the way they design and manufacture products, and 80 per cent were looking at designing for the environment in relation to new product development.

Such legislation will mean products must be designed with durability, disassembly, recycling and re-use in mind, says Mark Shayler, design counsellor at Business Link Bradford. Mr Shayler, who is running a seminar on Design for the Environment in Bradford on October 28, says: "Companies often see environmental issues as a design constraint, stopping them from using hard woods, for example. But then design for the environment also gives opportunities for competitive advantages."

A report by the Design

Drive to promote second-life surgery



Mark Shayler, left, and Tony Bhogal with a car parts cleaning machine

Council last year confirms this. It found that just over 30 per cent of a product's costs are set during its design phase, and that a similar proportion of the impact it will have on the environment are also set at this low-cost stage.

Mr Shayler agrees: "It is hard work convincing the small and medium-size enterprises I work with that looking at environmental issues at an early stage can have economic benefits. But products which require fewer raw materials and less energy to develop give massive cost and environmental benefits. If companies develop a new component which doesn't need to be broken down when it is recycled, there will be future savings."

Emma Prentis, senior man-

ager of the Environment and Sustainability unit of Canadian telecommunications equipment manufacturer Nortel, says the company has gone back to the design process with many of its products, and removed hazardous materials. Nortel's research unit in Harlow, Essex, for example, has come up with a soldering technique which removes 99.99 per cent of lead.

"Environmentally friendly products have competitive advantages particularly in northern Europe, as well as countries in Latin America," she says. "The Eco-Label, awarded to products meeting certain environmental criteria, managed by the European Union, is a popular selling point, particularly in Germany, and is starting to gain influence over here."

Developing components which can be re-used and are more durable, or products which are more modular in design so that parts can be easily replaced, is increasingly common. Rank Xerox offers customers a choice of three photocopiers, including one made from re-used parts. Flat already labels its components with advice on how to recycle them.

Much of the take-back legislation will affect the electronics and the automotive industries first, says Mr Shayler. Tony Bhogal, managing director of Autoclectro in Bradford, is already looking at ways to re-use car components, using what he can and selling on the waste for recycling.

His job would be much easier if designers considered a more modular approach in the early stages of design: "Car designers should look at making parts easier to overhaul. Many components fail due to wear and many, if designed properly, could be made to last longer," he says.

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Duke's award
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THE PREVIEW PHILIP BIRCH

Design Council

PRODUCTS
MILLENNIUM
CONTEST

IBA

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Saturday 25 October 1997, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry

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Wall Street women out-perform male fund managers

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

WALL STREET is known as one of the last bastions of male chauvinism in America. But the locker-room atmosphere has now been shattered by a survey that suggests women are better investors than men. Over the past three years, female-run funds have outperformed those run by males in almost every market sector. The authors of the *Money* magazine survey put this down to women's "better shopping instincts".

Morningstar, a ratings agency, studied 2,562 US mutual funds and showed that

women fund managers "always outperformed their male colleagues except for funds specialising in fast-growth equities. The authors said: "The performance gap was especially wide between male and female managers of small company funds." The number of US woman fund managers has risen 500 per cent to 464 over the past ten years. But there are still six times more men than women managing Wall Street funds.

Jessica Bilhewicz, president of John A. Levin, an investment company, said: "It's a top-of-

the-class thing. It was probably tougher for these women to get their jobs, so they had to be better to get there."

The survey authors give two reasons for women's superior performance. First, female fund managers tend to be younger than male colleagues. The women's average age is 42 compared to 46 for men. Younger managers apparently feel more pressure to perform. And a study by MIT and the University of Chicago, "younger portfolio managers outperform older ones by an average of 0.86 per cent for each year of age difference".

Second, women are the better shoppers. Loretta Morris, a lead manager at Nicholas Applegate, said: "They make careful decisions, gathering all the information they can." Statistics from the National Association of Investors Corporation show women-only investor clubs earning average annual returns 50 per cent higher than men-only clubs.

On international stocks, women earned annual returns of 7.5 per cent while men made 6 per cent.

Littlewoods gamble

LITTLEWOODS, the pools company, is to make a new attack on Camelot, the National Lottery operator, by launching a lottery scratchcard billed as offering the best odds of a cash prize of any scratchcard (Jason Nisbet writes).

The pools company's "Winning Streak" card promises jackpots of £1,000 and odds of 3.85 to one of a cash prize.

Littlewoods is launching it today with advertising featuring a naked man.

The card follows the launch of Littlewoods Lotto in August, which came after the pools company's purchase of UK Charity Lotteries last year. Jeremy Collis, who runs the operation, has vowed to inject humour and interest into the lottery market.



Marc Küffer, left, who is leading a buyout of Roventa-Henex, the Swiss watchmaker, with Matthew Turner, of PPM

Pru makes Swiss watch buyout tick

ONE of Switzerland's largest makers of high-quality watches has been bought by its management in a £50 million deal backed by the venture capital arm of the Prudential (Jason Nisbet writes).

Roventa-Henex, which sells in the UK under the brand name Avia, was previously owned by a Swiss consortium of

private investors. It has a factory in Tavannes, Switzerland, a quality control centre in Hong Kong and a distribution arm in Surrey and boasts an annual turnover of SFr120 million (£51 million).

The buyout is being led by Marc Küffer, Roventa's managing director, and the finance is being co-ordinated by

PPM Ventures, a subsidiary of Prudential, with backing from HSBC Investment Bank and Swiss Bank Corporation. Matthew Turner, a director of PPM Ventures, said yesterday: "Roventa-Henex is a strongly managed business with an excellent track record and a prestigious customer base."

Reuters to reveal computer timebomb exposure

BY FRASER NELSON

REUTERS, the business information giant, will this week reveal its exposure to the computer millennium bug that threatens to affect millions of machines in the year 2000.

The company is understood to be preparing a comprehensive audit detailing what it must spend in order to clear out faulty software. The information is expected to accompany its third-quarter trading figures on Thursday.

The company is expected to send out information to all its clients about measures that can be taken to avoid computer failure.

Reuters has admitted that its Series 3000, the newest and most advanced of its information products designed as its latest weapon against Bloomberg, a rival, could be badly affected by the bug. Peter Job, chief executive, has told shareholders that the company views the matter as "a very serious issue with wide ramifications".

Many of its rivals, however, have said they are in the clear. Dan Wagner, who is negotiating a £260 million merger between his MAID company and Knight-Ridder Information, said neither company would have to deploy any extra capital or staff to address the problem.

He has dismissed the bug as "a lot of hype which will make a lot of money for computer consultants". Reuters is badly placed because it supplies clients with a computer and modern, magnifying its exposure to hardware problems. MAID, by contrast, allows its system to be accessed through any computer with a modem and restricts its hardware costs to the master database.

Analysts said the company's refusal to specify its exposure was beginning to create nervousness. One said: "The nervous sounds coming from Reuters management have done nothing to inspire confidence in how they will handle it. If companies like Safeway can admit it's going to cost them £40 million, we can only guess at what Reuters is going to be in for."

Richard Ellis backs US offer

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

RICHARD ELLIS Group, the UK's leading commercial estate agency, yesterday confirmed that it is on the verge of accepting a takeover offer from Insignia Financial, the US group, which is expected to value it at £80 million.

The Richard Ellis board has signed a letter of intent, but needs to win the support of other shareholders before the deal is closed. Senior managers of Richard Ellis, which converted from a partnership to a company earlier this year, are expected to become millionaires after the takeover.

Insignia is America's largest quoted estate agency, with total sales of about \$500 million. It is keen to gain a foothold in the European market. The deal will include the acquisition of Donaldsons, a smaller estate agency that began merger talks with Richard Ellis earlier this year.

Tailored offers from Safeway

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SAFeway, the supermarket group, has begun experiments aimed at offering individual customers their own specially tailored promotional offers when they turn up for their weekly shopping.

If successful, the special offers could come partly out of the company's marketing budget and lead, in time, to a significant reduction in Safeway's television budget.

Safeway, supported by IBM, has been exploring ways of getting commercially useful knowledge from its six million ABC loyalty cardholders. Roger Partington, Safeway's customer development director, said: "We are told we are probably the most advanced, certainly in Europe and probably in the world."

The supermarket group, which last month was talking about a possible merger with Asda, until the talks leaked,

already allows customers to scan in their purchases in 140 stores. The process has recently been taken a step further with the introduction of special kiosks near the entrance of stores. When a loyalty card is scanned in, the system recognises the customers' normal pattern of purchases and they are alerted to any relevant special offers.

Mr Partington said: "What we are now moving to is not offering the same promotions to everyone." A heavy buyer of champagne or perfume will be offered a special promotion just for them. The concept is already on trial in a number of stores, whose locations are being kept secret.

Safeway has also introduced a personalised system of rewards for customers based on increasing the amount of money they spend with the group.

Fund manager revamps range to win back private investors

M&G shakes up unit trusts

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

M&G, the fund manager, will tomorrow unveil a re-organisation of its unit trust range intended to revive its ailing fortunes.

Once the giant of the unit trust and PEP industry, the £16 billion fund manager has been humbled by the poor performance of nearly all its unit trusts in the 1990s, which has provoked an exodus of private investors.

The last straw came in the first quarter of this year, when M&G's share of the £16 billion PEP market fell from 8 per cent to 2 per cent. In spite of recruiting the self-styled inventor of PEPs, Lord Lawson of Baly, the former Chancellor, for its PEP television commercials, M&G raised only £20 million for the launch of its High Income Investment Trust.

Vivian Bazalgette, the chief investment officer hired last



Lord Lawson in an M&G television commercial for Peps

year, is expected to announce that he is broadening M&G's famed value approach to investing. Value investing, which tends to concentrate on high-yielding manufacturing

stocks, has not fared well in the blue chip boom of the 1990s. Mr Bazalgette has told his fund managers to consider other criteria, such as turnover and pricing power, when

choosing shares. This will increase the amount of growth stocks in its funds, making them less vulnerable to changes in the economic cycle, he believes.

Mr Bazalgette is also tidying up M&G products. The company has built up a confusing array of 14 UK unit trusts aimed at private investors. Up to four of the more obscure funds are expected to be merged in a rationalisation that will distinguish more clearly capital growth funds and income funds. M&G will also start to charge fees to capital on its income funds. This will enable it to maintain yields on the funds while expanding the range of stocks they can choose.

Financial advisers, on whom M&G relies for business, seemed relieved by the changes. One said: "They are finally doing what other fund managers have been doing for years."

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND	
US dollar	1.5158 (-0.0959)
German mark	2.8579 (+0.0173)
Exchange index	100.5 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share	3423.2 (+15.8)
FTSE 100	5271.1 (-59.7)
New York Dow Jones	7847.09 (-198.18)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	17478.42 (-189.03)

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An authoritative source reports that half of all companies experiencing computer downtime lasting 10 days or more will either go out of business or be sold in a year. Shouldn't you have a survival plan? The revolutionary new HP Colorado 5GB tape drive enables you to back up 2GB in just 36 minutes. Gives full PC system protection, costs just \$150. For full details ring HP now.



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THE ENGLISH COX CAMPAIGN

Jim'll fix it, whether you want him to or not

If you don't like the look of BBC's Saturday evening line-up, well, tough. It's not about to leave in a hurry. *Casualty* is now a few weeks into a marathon run of 26 episodes, while the weekend's new arrivals, *Noel's House Party* and *Jim Davidson's Generation Game* (BBC, Saturday) got under way, presumably hoping that if he said it confidently enough none of the live bit, anyway. Then again, how cross can you be with a show that has a number from those masters of pomp-rock, Emerson, Lake and Palmer, as its theme tune?

What came next was even more

painful: a seemingly endless sequence of contrived gags and scripted ad-libs that meant that after 14 minutes we still hadn't started the first game. True, one of those gags poked gentle fun at Davidson's illustrious predecessors, Bruce Forsyth and Larry Grayson, but that simply served as a reminder that both men, and particularly Forsyth, were in their element with the show, while Davidson is not.

The Generation Game is a family show, while Davidson's natural environment is entertaining "adults". Result? Put the two together and it doesn't quite work, particularly when the vital relationship between Davidson and his assistant, Melanie Space, is at best so-so.

The fact that the show gets as close as it does to the

and the fact that once the games get going, Davidson is fine. It's what happens in between that is such hard work, particularly with so many guest stars to get on to a 60-second turn. Charlie Williams, Ken Goodwin, Cannon and Ball, Sir Jimmy Savile... where would it all end? Well, back in the 1990s would be nice.

The big question for any series that seeks to examine the relationship between the Royal Family and the media is, just how surprising can it be? The answer, at least as far as last night's *Royals and Repetiles* (Channel 4) is concerned, depends on whether you saw the same channel's tawdry Princess Margaret's life, earlier this year. If you didn't, then *Royals and Repetiles* was another interesting and authoritative annotated reminder that glamorous princesses are nothing new under the Sun.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

If you did, however, the programme was still authoritatively annotated (you knew it wasn't going to be a bad night for us) and when they kicked off with Simon Jenkins and Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, it was predictable. The Coronation Group Captain Townsend, the Princess Margaret's wedding, the making of *Royal Family*, the investiture of the Prince of Wales,

Princess Margaret's divorce... We all knew where we were heading, and, sure enough, Lady Diana Spencer made her first appearance just before the final credits. I'm not sure I have the appetite for part two, next week.

But although I had seen the Princess Margaret footage before, I enjoyed part one and particularly John Grigg's contribution. In 1957, Lord Altrincham, as he was then, accused the Royal Family of being "elitist" and "weedy". The wrath of the Establishment and the first of a gentleman loitering with royalist intent outside the ITN building duly descended. Forty years on, Grigg could be forgiven for looking just a little smug.

On BBC2, *Books and Mortar* turned out to be a rather curious film, not least because nobody whispered "shush" as Peter Acroyd charted the cultural contribution of the round Reading Room of the British Library. Will

Self rifled through its pornography collection and Malcolm Bradbury celebrated literary romances. Whenever any of them paused for breath, George Steiner popped up being so erudite it was frightening. You needed a reader's ticket just to keep up.

What also made the programme curious was the sudden change of pace as the action shifted from the old Reading Room, now being stripped of its books, to the new and highly controversial library at St Pancras. At a stroke, the mood moved from gentle personal nostalgia to a quite awful personal tragedy. Why had nobody told me that the architect of the much vilified new building had never worked since?

Yet here he was, his partnership now dissolved, inviting John Wells (who may have a reader's ticket but was still a curious choice) not

just to stroke the stone staircase and fondle the leather banister, but to tell him that everything would be all right, really. It was almost too awful to watch. Thankfully, Wells and everybody else who attended a champagne opening reception loved the interior. Except possibly our own Jonathan Meades, who described it as "the last sixties building". Coming from Meades, however, that might just be a compliment.

Finally, all this talk of libraries helped the weekend to achieve the impossible, by introducing me to a piece of Rachel Whiteread sculpture that I thought was wonderful. Unfortunately, *The Works* (BBC2, Saturday) told the story of why her concrete cast of the interior of a library (I know it sounds silly, but trust me, it isn't) to commemorate the Austrian Jews who died in the Holocaust may never be built. Still, at least I understood it in theory.

SBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (95407)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (82411575)
- 9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3526758)
- 9.30 Style Challenge (8074169)
- 9.55 Kilroy (T) (5312378)
- 10.35 Change That in Herogame (8058555)
- 11.00 News (T) (7430852)
- 11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (7470778)
- 11.35 Room for Improvement: How to install a loft ladder (T) (3480404)
- 12.00 News (T) (8813001)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (7693778)
- 12.35 Going for a Song (5275330)
- 1.00 News and weather (T) (88662)
- 1.30 Regional News (73317227)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (2822010)
- 1.45 Neighbours (T) (7103339)
- 2.10 Quinny (T) (8055295)
- 3.00 Through the Keyhole (1708982)
- 3.25 The Really Useful Show Update (4884778)
- 3.30 Playdays (8779855) 3.50 Enchanted Land (825344) 4.00 Road, Darts, Revolving Recipes, with Sophie Dahl, Gary Rhodes (8183759) 4.15 Noah's Island (8351136) 4.40 Goosebumps (3571310) 5.00 Newsworld (T) (2855488) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8254594)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (723391)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (843)
- 6.30 Regional News (223)
- 7.00 This is Your Life (T) (6910)
- 7.30 Here and Now: Women who have had their hair ruined by a trip to the salon (T) (407)
- 8.00 EastEnders: Joe receives a devastating message from the spirit world; Bianca turns to Ricky for support (T) (2730)
- 8.30 A Prince Among Men: Gary is to be awarded with an honorary PhD for his services to sport, charity and industry. Last in series (T) (1895)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (1469)
- 9.30 Bloomin' Marvellous: Jack and Lol buy a pram, write the birth plan and enrol Jack in antenatal classes (T) (82223)
- 10.00 Panorama: exposes the increasing hospital waiting lists and the acute lack of hospital beds (T) (370371)
- 10.40 Omnibus: The Fame and Shame of Salvador Dali: The first of a two-part biography of the Surrealist artist Salvador Dali (T) (1290488)
- 11.45 Film '97 with Barry Norman: The new film from the Transpacific and Shadow Grave team: A Life Less Ordinary, with Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz; The Peacemaker, with George Clooney and Nicole Kidman; John Travolta talks about John Woo's Face/Off (T) (400407)
- 12.15am Grand Prix: Action from the third round in Scotland (2451285)
- 1.05 Mixed Company (1974) Joseph Bologna, Barbara Harris and Tom Bosley star. Comedy about a basketball coach whose wife wants to adopt three children from different ethnic backgrounds. Directed by: Melville Shavelson (T) (217905)
- 2.50 Weather (3505824)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder, together with a VideoPlus+ card, to record the programme you want to watch. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

SBC2

- 6.00am Education: Ways with Words (T) (18488) 6.30 The Academy of Wastes? (54575)
- 7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and sign) (950130)
- 7.15 Teletubbies (8683558) 7.40 Smurfs: Adventures (T) (403223) 8.05 Blue Peter (T) (T) (772223) 8.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 8.55 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 9.10 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 9.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 9.55 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 10.10 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 10.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 10.55 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 11.10 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 11.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 11.50 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 12.10 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 12.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 12.50 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 1.10 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 1.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 1.50 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 2.10 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 2.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 2.50 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 3.10 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 3.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 3.50 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 4.10 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 4.30 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 4.50 The Muppet Show (T) (772233) 5.10 The 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BUSINESS

PARADIGMS 46
Do you believe in miracles, asks Roger Bootle



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY OCTOBER 20 1997

Hyundai may double plant investment

By FRASER NELSON

HYUNDAI, the South Korean electronics group that is building a £1.3 billion microchip plant in Scotland, is prepared to double its investment if the boom in the computer market continues.

The company, which last year announced it would open two £650 million memory chip factories in Fife, is building infrastructure that will support four factories.

If the market conditions are good, it will open a third and fourth microchip plant, taking total investment to £2.6 billion and creating a total of 3,200 jobs. This would make the Dunfermline development

one of the largest inward investment projects in the world. The full potential of the site has not been publicised by the Scottish Office, which considers the prospect of a third and fourth factory too distant.

However, Hyundai said that unless demand slowed down, it would be drawing up plans for the third factory within five years, triggering the extra investment.

Seung Rak Lee, assistant operations manager, said: "We have chosen a 150-acre site, and this includes space for four factories. If market conditions are good, we will keep expanding." The third and fourth

factories would be on a similar scale to the first two, he said, and required the same levels of investment. The company's expansion plan forecasts that computer microchip technology will take a step-change every three to four years.

Mr Lee added: "We need to produce memory that matches the cycle of development in PCs. You used to have eight megs four or five years ago, now the base is 32 megs and the need for memory is still growing." Its first factory starts dummy runs on 64-megabyte memory chips next spring, and the second is due to begin work on the more complex 256-megabyte chips within two years. If the three-year cycle model holds good, the third factory should start production in 2003.

However, Mr Lee emphasised that the company has not planned beyond the second factory, and even that could be scaled down if the semiconductor market fell. He said: "If we said a third factory will open in 2003, we would be lying. We will look at the market after each stage and then decide."

The more advanced factories are likely to look at producing one-gigabyte memory chips and be produced on 12-inch wafers of silicon against the eight-inch wafers used at present.

Hyundai is the largest of South Korea's trading companies, but takes sixth place in the memory-chip market. It agreed to locate in Scotland after months of intense lobbying by the Government and a promise of an £80 million subsidy. Mr Lee said each of the four plants should employ 400 administrative staff and 400 electronics graduates - a demand that recruitment consultants say might be difficult to fulfill.

Wilson (Connolly) is to build 3,500 houses around the plant together with a multiplex cinema, a 62-acre park and a cricket square - creating an estimated 1,000 jobs in support services alone.

Accountants' files seized by taxman

By JASON NISSE

OFFICERS from the special compliance department of the Inland Revenue have raided the premises of two of the top six accountancy firms, Ernst & Young and Coopers & Lybrand, and seized papers.

The raids, last week, came as part of the Revenue's largest criminal investigation into tax avoidance schemes and will be a particular embarrassment to the firms, both of which are planning huge mergers with other accounting groups.

Coopers unveiled a merger with Price Waterhouse last month and the coming together of Ernst & Young and KPMG, revealed in *The Times* on Saturday, is due to be announced today, creating the world's largest accounting firm.

The mergers will have to be approved by US anti-trust authorities and the European Commission. The Coopers deal has already drawn criticism from leading finance directors, and yesterday a former senior partner of Ernst & Young, John Keenan, said that its merger with KPMG would be "a great leap backwards".

Ernst & Young is understood to have created many of the schemes being investigated by the Revenue. They involved a number of offshore companies in countries such as Switzerland and Denmark. The firm confirmed that tax officers had raided five of its offices last week and removed documents.

Coopers & Lybrand has been widely promoting some of the schemes. It said that the Revenue has been investigating some of its clients and, as part of that, has used its powers to remove documents from offices of the accountants.

In all, more than 80 offices have been raided, including those of solicitors and private companies.



ROBERT FELD, above, the former managing director of Resort Hotels serving an eight-year prison sentence for fraud, is to seek leave to appeal to have his sentence reduced (Dominic Walsh writes). Feld, described by the judge as "a man of quite appalling dishonesty", is said to have been shocked at the severity of the sentence. He was found guilty in April of 12 counts of fraud and forgery, with most of the charges relating to a rights issue in 1992. Resort collapsed two years later with debts of more

than £140 million and most of the group's hotels were subsequently sold to Jarvis Hotels. Harkavy, the firm of solicitors that represented Feld during the trial, declined to comment, but it is understood that he will shortly ask the High Court for leave to take his case to the Court of Appeal. A previous request for the sentence to be reconsidered by the High Court was rejected.

His efforts are unlikely to attract sympathy from the army of small shareholders who lost all their

money when the company collapsed. Edwin Cox, the firm of solicitors representing the Resort Hotels Shareholders' Action Group, is this week expected to serve writs on the company's former directors, as well as BZW, which underwrote the £20 million rights issue, and Coopers & Lybrand, the company's auditor. The writs will be served on behalf of about 500 individual shareholders and seven institutional investors that between them accounted for about ten million shares.

Dealing debut adds to jitters

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND ADAM JONES

THE STOCK market is braced for a turbulent day's trading today as the new share dealing system goes live and uncertainty mounts over the Government's EMU policies.

Extra pressure is expected to come from America, where growing fears over rate rises and high stock valuations caused the Dow Jones to slip more than 200 points on Thursday and Friday, while on Friday the Nasdaq market suffered its largest fall since the October 1987 stock market crash.

Economists predict that UK shares are set to fall between 50 and 100 points today, although Adam Cole, UK economist at James Caple, insisted the decline was unlikely to be "catastrophic". Gilt

prices, which have benefited from convergence plays in recent weeks, will also come under pressure. But the pound is set to climb higher on speculation that the Bank of England will be free to raise UK interest rates and renewed interest in sterling as a "safe

haven" from the single currency. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will formally switch on the Stock Exchange's new order-driven trading system at 8.30am. Traders will have actually been inputting orders from 8am. The system, called Ses,

will replace the current quote-driven trading environment, where market-makers maintain liquidity in stocks by quoting buy and sell prices on the telephone.

There is growing disquiet in the City over the Government's handling of EMU poli-

cy and the damage apparent shifts in policy are doing to business and the financial markets. Richard Jeffrey, UK economist at Charterhouse, said: "I think the Government has to understand that it needs to remove this uncertainty and create a clear line on its attitude towards Europe and monetary union."

Two surveys to be published today show that UK businesses are not convinced of the merits of an early entry into EMU. A Healey & Baker European Cities Monitor found that only 16 per cent of leading British businesses favour entry in 1999, while around 40 per cent supported a delay for more than two years. A 31 survey of small businesses found that almost half believe their company's competitiveness will suffer in a single currency.

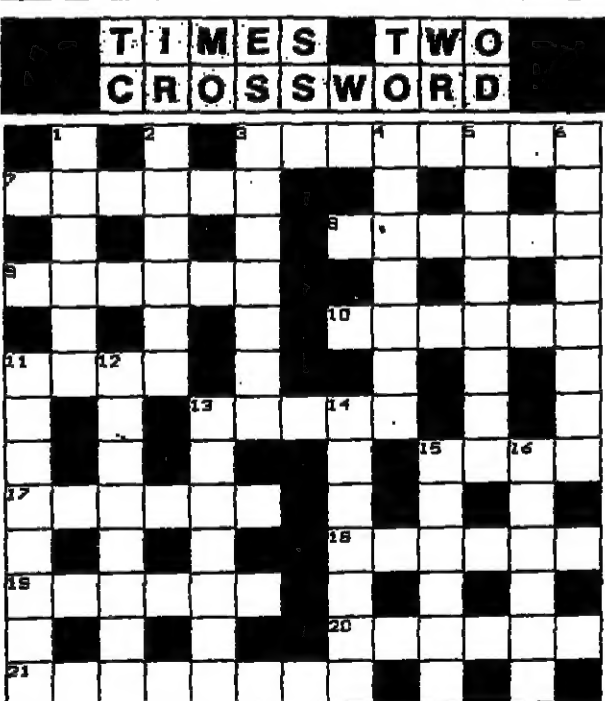
Haunted by shades of 1929

In contrast, the 1929 crash sent the US economy into deep recession, and it took a quarter of a century for the Dow Jones industrial average to recover the ground it lost.

After a nervy September, Wall Street began falling in earnest on Monday October 21, driven by forced selling from investors facing margin calls that they could not meet. The stock market ticker could

not keep pace with trading; it was an hour and 40 minutes after the market closed before it could record the last deal.

Yet the level of selling was twice as high three days later, on Black Thursday. Shares went into freefall on Tuesday 29 October, amid panic on the New York Stock Exchange. From its 1929 peak to its mid-1932 trough, the Dow Jones lost 77 per cent of its value.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1229

ACROSS

- 3 A tramp (5)
- 7 Staid, composed (6)
- 8 Enveloping Muslim garment (6)
- 9 School absentee (6)
- 10 Illegal delivery (cricket) (2,4)
- 11 Shack: cast off (4)
- 13 Face growth: boldly confront (5)
- 15 Religious splinter group (4)
- 17 Andy —, US pop artist (6)
- 18 Get less light (6)
- 19 Full of tricks (6)
- 20 Heavily embellished (6)
- 21 Child's jumping game (8)

DOWN

- 1 Bottom of furnace: home symbol (6)
- 2 Risk (6)
- 3 Another risk (7)
- 4 Chunnel station: Daisy —, Young Visitors author (7)
- 5 Munitions (8)
- 6 Abandoned, dilapidated (8)
- 11 Rapidly grow: Trotsky figure (Animal Farm) (8)
- 12 Non-obligatory (eg pay-out) (2,4)
- 13 Old Eng. poem: hero kills Grendel (7)
- 14 Selfish driver (4,3)
- 15 Leap source (6)
- 16 A toboggan Runt (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1228

- ACROSS: 1 Abound 5 Pagoda 8 Tess 9 Gridlock 10 Sides 11 Sassy 13 Euphemistic 16 Score 18 Penguin 21 Reville 22 Lock 23 Asylum 24 Signal
- DOWN: 2 Beehive 3 Upret 4 Doggerel 5 Prim 6 Gallant 7 Decey 12 Likeness 14 Purcell 15 Chimera 17 Chess 19 Gulag 20 Slim

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NatWest pressed on sale of Markets

By JASON NISSE

SOURCES within NatWest Markets dismissed speculation at the weekend that the troubled merchant bank may be sold quickly, with ABN Amro Hoare Govett leading the list of potential buyers.

NatWest Group has hired Lazard Brothers to advise on the future of NatWest Markets, which chief executive, Martin Owen, resigned earlier this year after the group ran up more than £80 million of losses on options trading.

Chip Kruger, his replacement, is understood to be pressing Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest Group, to make a decision on the future and ideally sell the ailing business. However, Mr Kruger went on holiday this weekend and is not expected back in the NatWest Markets' offices for at least ten days.

Lazard is believed to be recommending that NatWest defer any decision until the sale of BZW, the broker, by Barclays is announced. The City is expecting news on the BZW sale this week, with CSFB, the Swiss securities house, favourite to buy it.

Speculation has also centred on the future of Hambros, the merchant banking group hit by the Lancia Trust scandal, with the Italian bank, Sao Paolo di Torino, tipped as a bidder. Sao Paolo is Hambros' largest shareholder, with 16.6 per cent of the group, and has been associated with Hambros for more than a decade.

Hambros is also working on a plan which is expected to involve the sale of its stakes in both its estate agency and insurance affiliates.

Coca-Cola mourns death of chairman

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

OFFICES of the Coca-Cola Company worldwide will be closed tomorrow as a tribute to Roberto Goizueta, the group's chairman and chief executive, who died on Saturday of lung cancer, aged 65.

A Cuban refugee who became a legend in American business, Mr Goizueta oversaw phenomenal growth in Coca-Cola's market value during his 16 years at the helm. Worth \$4 billion (£2.6 billion) in 1981, when Mr Goizueta, a rank outsider, succeeded J. Paul Austin as chairman, Coca-Cola is today valued at nearly \$130 billion. This makes Mr Goizueta one of the greatest creators of shareholder wealth in corporate history.

Mr Goizueta took hold of the conservative and bureaucratic Coca-Cola, mired in the quicksand of Georgia's "Southern" business methods, and dragged it into virtually every corner of the world. One of his most audacious moves was the creation of Diet Coke in 1982.

Today, Diet Coke is America's largest-selling sugar-free beverage, and the fourth-largest soft drink behind normal Coke, Pepsi and 7-Up.

Mr Goizueta's other achievement, rated by many analysts as pivotal to his success, was consolidation of a previously chaotic bottling system. He also conducted corporate warfare via bottling: in 1996, Coca-Cola bought Pepsi's Venezuelan bottler, putting its rival out of business overnight in the only Latin American country where Coke had a smaller market share.

Mr Goizueta was also, however, the author of the 1985 blunder in which Coca-Cola replaced its 99-year-old formula with a sweeter, smoother version, called "New Coke", which the public spurned and which had to be withdrawn.

Coca-Cola's new chairman is likely to be Douglas Ivester, 50, its chief operating officer.

Obituary, page 23

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Sentences are to be passed down on Ted Ball and David Ashworth of Landhurst Leasing

■ **Wednesday**
Janet Bush, left, assesses the economic background to the jittery markets

■ **Thursday**
Graham Scragg gives an in-depth opinion on the issues of the week

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Commercial Union 36.00	Barclays Life 86.00
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Pearl Assurance 44.00	Pearl Assurance 99.00
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